Colonial British America is the most studied colonial society in the world. Perhaps at the end of this course you will understand how, if not why.

Readings

Each week everyone will read the core assignment. Beginning in the second week, each person will also select an item from the list of secondary titles; there will be no duplication of secondary readings. Generally, an individual will be free to choose the work that most interests him/her, but some "volunteers" may be sacrificed to ensure that interpretive diversity prevails.

All books assigned as core readings are available for purchase at the University Book Store and have also been placed on three-hour reserve at the State Historical Library for the semester. The secondary readings will be available on three-day reserve at the Library. (A few non-circulating journals live in the Main Reading Room at the Library, and a few readings also needed by undergraduates will be on three-hour reserve).

Written Assignments

You will write three papers, 7-8 pages, typed, double-spaced. You may choose which 2 of the first 4 papers to attempt; everyone must write the final essay on Bailyn. The paper topics are intended to cover the readings most recently covered, but I encourage you to bring in material from throughout the course (and elsewhere, if you can). You may write on another topic that covers the reading after discussing your ideas with me.

DUE FRIDAY, OCT. 6 - Assess the impact that Africans and Amerindians had on the settlement of the colonial South.

DUE FRIDAY, OCT. 28 - Explain what historians mean when they speak about community networks and, using at least three examples, both discuss what networks were most critical in the formation of colonial American communities and explain the similarities and/or differences in the process among your examples.

DUE FRIDAY, NOV. 10 - Religion (whatever that is) configures other cultural arrangements. Describe how religious values influenced at least two of the four following phenomena: local politics, family life, popular culture, settlement patterns.

DUE FRIDAY, DEC. 1 - Being careful to define the terms "popular" and "politics," discuss the degree to which one might call colonial American politics "popular."

DUE FRIDAY, DEC. 14 - Bailyn's Peopling attempts a comprehensive overview of American colonial development. How convincing is its analysis?
Rewrite Policy

You may rewrite any paper, but only after talking with me about such details as the new due date and the kinds of changes to be made. You must inform me of your decision to rewrite a paper by the Friday following the class session at which I first return the original version. I will be flexible regarding the amount of time you may have for revisions, but in general you should not expect to enjoy more than a week in which to revise your work. The old draft (plus any separate sheet of comments) must accompany the new version. Please note that simply rewriting a paper will not in itself guarantee a higher grade; you must substantially improve the essay, following my comments to be sure, but initiating your own changes as well.

Grading

Simplicity itself. The papers and class discussion each count 25%.

Incompletes

The Gendzel Protocol governs the assigning of Incompletes: in fairness to those students who turn their work in on time, I will not grant an Incomplete for reasons other than Acts of God or other extraordinary disasters (covered in the Proclamation, p. 17 below). You may have an Incomplete without penalty only in such cases; in all other instances, an Incomplete carries a grade penalty of ☐-step.

I. INTRODUCTION

Sept. 5 - Varieties of Societies

Core reading:

Jack P. Greene, PURSUITS OF HAPPINESS
II. RACES

Sept. 12 - 3-2-1 Contact

Core reading: James Merrell, THE INDIANS' NEW WORLD

Secondary reading:

Overviews

James Merrell, "Some Thoughts on Colonial Historians and American Indians." William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 46 (1989), 94-119

Cultures in the Southeast

Philip Brown, "Early Indian Trade in the Development of South Carolina: Politics, Economics, and Social Mobility During the Proprietary Period, 1670-1719," South Carolina Historical Magazine, 76 (1975), 118-28
Verner Crane, THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER, 137-62
Richard Beale Davis, INTELLECTUAL LIFE IN THE COLONIAL SOUTH, I, 196-219
Charles Hudson, THE CATAWBA NATION, 29-52
J. Ralph Randolph, BRITISH TRAVELLERS AMONG THE SOUTHERN INDIANS, 1660-1763, 78-88, 108-25
W. Stitt Robinson, THE SOUTHERN COLONIAL FRONTIER, 1607-1763, 98-120
J. Leitch Wright, THE ONLY LAND THEY KNEW, 217-47

Patterns of Interaction

James Axtell, THE INVASION WITHIN, 302-27
Francis Jennings, THE AMBIGUOUS IROQUOIS EMPIRE, 25-57
Karen Ordahl Kupperman, MEETING WITH THE INDIANS, 169-88
Neal Salisbury, MANITOU AND PROVIDENCE, 50-84
William Simmons, SPIRIT OF THE NEW ENGLAND TRIBES, 37-72
Sept. 19 - The Sot-Weed Factor

Core reading: Edmund Morgan, AMERICAN SLAVERY, AMERICAN FREEDOM

Secondary reading:

Overview


Early settlement

Carville Earle, "Environment, Disease, and Mortality in Early Virginia," in Thad Tate and David Ammerman, eds., THE CHESAPEAKE IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, 96-125

Social Organization and Political Stability


Blacks and Slavery

David Galenson, WHITE SERVITUDE IN COLONIAL AMERICA, 141-68
Winthrop Jordan, WHITE OVER BLACK, 44-98
Peter Kolchin, UNFREE LABOR, 1-46
Allan Kulikoff, TOBACCO AND SLAVES, 381-420
Gerald Mullin, FLIGHT AND REBELLION, 34-82
Mechal Sobel, THE WORLD THEY MADE TOGETHER, 30-67
Sept. 26 - Africa on the Ashley

Core reading: Peter Wood, BLACK MAJORITY

Secondary reading:

Carolina and the Islands

Richard S. Dunn, "The English Sugar Islands and the Founding of South Carolina," South Carolina Historical Magazine, 72 (1971), 81-93

Society and Economy

Carl Bridenbaugh, MYTHS AND REALITIES, 54-118
Peter Coclanis, THE SHADOW OF A DREAM: ECONOMIC LIFE AND DEATH IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA LOW COUNTRY, 27-47
John J. McCusker and Russell Menard, THE ECONOMY OF BRITISH AMERICA, 1607-1789, 169-88

Political Organization

Eugene Sirmans, COLONIAL SOUTH CAROLINA: A POLITICAL HISTORY, 103-28
Clarence Ver Steeg, ORIGINS OF A SOUTHERN MOSAIC, 31-68
Robert Weir, COLONIAL SOUTH CAROLINA, 105-40

Blacks and Slavery

Cheryl Ann Cody, "There was no 'Absalom' on the Ball Plantations: Slave-naming Practices in the South Carolina Low Country, 1720-1845," AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, 92 (1987), 563-96
A. Leon Higginbotham, IN THE MATTER OF COLOR, 151-215
Daniel C. Littlefield, RICE AND SLAVES, 115-73
Philip D. Morgan, "Colonial South Carolina Runaways: Their Significance for Slave Culture," Slavery and Abolition, 6 (1985), 57-78
Clarence L. Ver Steeg, ORIGINS OF A SOUTHERN MOSAIC, 103-32
Darold D. Wax, "'The Great Risque We Run': The Aftermath of Slave Rebellion at Stono, South Carolina, 1739-1745," Journal of Negro History, 67 (1982), 136-47
III. COMMUNITIES

Oct. 3 - Networks' News

Core reading: Darrett Rutman and Anita Rutman, A PLACE IN TIME: MIDDLESEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1650-1750

Secondary reading:

Overviews

"Introduction," in Carr et al., COLONIAL CHESAPEAKE SOCIETY, 1-46
Darrett B. Rutman, "Assessing the Little Communities of Early America," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 43 (1986), 163-78

Social organization

Richard Beeman, THE EVOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN BACKCOUNTRY, 42-96
Allan Kulkoff, TOBACCO AND SLAVES, 205-60
James O'Mara, AN HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF URBAN SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT, 218-86
Jean B. Russo, "Self-Sufficiency and Local Exchange: Free Craftsmen in the Rural Chesapeake Economy," in Carr et al., op. cit., 389-432
Lorena Walsh, "Community Networks in the Early Chesapeake," ibid., 200-41

Political organization

Warren M. Billings, "Law and Culture in the Colonial Chesapeake Area," Southern Studies, 17 (1978), 333-48
Robert Wheeler, "The County Court in Colonial Virginia," ibid., 111-34

Women

Mary Beth Norton, "Gender and Defamation in Seventeenth-Century Maryland," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 44 (1987), 3-39

Life and custom

Timothy Breen, TOBACCO CULTURE, 40-83
Rhys Isaac, THE TRANSFORMATION OF VIRGINIA, 18-57
John Stilgoe, COMMON LANDSCAPE OF AMERICA, 1580-1845, 58-77
Dell Upton, HOLY THINGS AND PROFANE, 175-96
History 901, sec. 4, Readings in Colonial America, 7

Oct. 10 - Declension Denied

Core reading: Christine Leigh Heyrman, CULTURE AND COMMERCE

Secondary reading:

Economy and society

Bernard Bailyn, THE NEW ENGLAND MERCHANTS IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, 168-97
Stephen Innes, LABOR IN A NEW LAND, 123-50
John J. McCusker and Russell Menard, THE ECONOMY OF BRITISH AMERICA, 91-116

Religion

Richard Byers, THE NATION OF NANTUCKET, 102-21
Perry Miller, THE NEW ENGLAND MIND: FROM COLONY TO PROVINCE, 305-23
Patricia Tracy, JONATHAN EDWARDS, PASTOR, 91-108

Political organization

Edward M. Cook, Jr., THE FATHERS OF THE TOWNS, 165-83
Bruce Daniels, THE CONNECTICUT TOWN, 119-39, 171-80
Michael Zuckerman, PEACEABLE KINGDOMS, 123-53

Women

Nancy F. Cott, "Divorce and the Changing Status of Women in Eighteenth-Century Massachusetts," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 33 (1976), 586-614
C. Dallett Hemphill, "Women in Court: Sex-Role Differentiation in Salem, Massachusetts, 1636 to 1683," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 39 (1982), 164-75
Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, "Martha Ballard and Her Girls: Women's Work in Eighteenth-Century Maine," in Innes, WORK AND LABOR, 70-105
Oct. 17 - The Friendly Family

Core reading: Barry Levy, QUAKERS AND THE AMERICAN FAMILY

Secondary Reading:

Overview

Jim Potter, "Demographic Development and Family Structure," in Greene and Pole, COLONIAL BRITISH AMERICA, 123-56

New England Families

Joy Day Buel and Richard Buel, Jr., THE WAY OF DUTY, 3-25
John Demos, A LITTLE COMMONWEALTH, 82-106
Philip Greven, THE PROTESTANT TEMPERAMENT, 21-61
Christopher Jedrey, THE WORLD OF JOHN CLEAVE LAND, 58-94
Edmund Morgan, THE PURITAN FAMILY, 161-86
Roger Thompson, SEX IN MIDDLESEX, 157-89

Middle-Colony Families

J. William Frost, THE QUAKER FAMILY IN COLONIAL AMERICA, 64-92
Ned Landsman, SCOTLAND AND ITS FIRST AMERICAN COLONY, 131-62
Carole Shammas et al., INHERITANCE IN AMERICA FROM COLONIAL TIMES TO THE PRESENT, 41-62

Southern Families

Philip Greven, THE PROTESTANT TEMPERAMENT, 265-95
Allan Kulikoff, TOBACCO AND SLAVES, 165-204
Rhys Isaac, THE TRANSFORMATION OF VIRGINIA, 58-87
Daniel Blake Smith, INSIDE THE BIG HOUSE, 25-54
Oct. 24 - Her Satanic Majesty

Core reading: Carol Karlsen, THE DEVIL IN THE SHAPE OF A WOMAN

Secondary reading:

Overview

David D. Hall, "Witchcraft and the Limits of Interpretation," NEW ENGLAND QUARTERLY, 58 (1985), 253-81

Witchcraft and community

Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, SALEM POSSESSED, 179-216
John Putnam Demos, ENTERTAINING SATAN, 275-312
Chadwick Hansen, WITCHCRAFT AT SALEM, 63-87
David Thomas Konig, LAW AND SOCIETY IN PURITAN MASSACHUSETTS, 158-85

Cultural and intellectual background

Christina Larner, WITCHCRAFT AND RELIGION, 35-67
Michael MacDonald, MYSTICAL BEDLAM, 173-231
Robert Middlekauff, THE MATHERS, 139-61
Keith Thomas, RELIGION AND THE DECLINE OF MAGIC, 535-69

Witchcraft in New England

Frederick Drake, "Witchcraft in the American Colonies, 1647-62," AMERICAN QUARTERLY, 20 (1968), 694-725
David D. Hall, THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERD, 227-48
Herbert Leventhal, IN THE SHADOW OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT, 66-125
Richard Weisman, WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC, AND RELIGION IN 17TH-CENTURY MASSACHUSETTS, 160-89
Larzer Ziff, PURITANISM IN AMERICA, 229-50

Women

Demos, ENTERTAINING SATAN, 57-94
Lyle Koehler, A SEARCH FOR POWER, 383-417
Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, GOOD WIVES, 148-63
IV. RELIGIONS

Oct. 31 - Credos and Credulity

Core Reading: David Hall, WORLDS OF WONDER, DAYS OF JUDGMENT

Secondary Readings:

Overviews

David D. Hall, "Religion and Society: Problems and Reconsiderations," in Greene and Pole, COLONIAL BRITISH AMERICA, 317-44

Spirituality and Ritual

Patricia Caldwell, THE PURITAN CONVERSION NARRATIVE, 119-34
Charles L. Cohen, GOD'S CARESS, 75-110
Charles Hambrick-Stowe, THE PRACTICE OF PIETY, 242-77
Dickran and Ann Tashjian, MEMORIALS FOR CHILDREN OF CHANGE: THE ART OF EARLY NEW ENGLAND STONECARVING, 34-61

Ministers and Parishioners

David D. Hall, THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERD, 249-69
George Selement, KEEPERS OF THE VINEYARD, 79-108
Harry Stout, THE NEW ENGLAND SOUL, 3-31
Theresa Toulouse, THE ART OF PROPHESYING, 13-45
Richard Weisman, WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC, AND RELIGION IN 17TH-CENTURY MASSACHUSETTS, 96-114
J. William T. Youngs, GOD'S MESSENGERS, 64-91

Aspects of Popular Culture

Herbert Leventhal, IN THE SHADOW OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT, 13-65
Nov. 7 - The Politics of Faith

Core reading: Patricia U. Bonomi, UNDER THE COPE OF HEAVEN

Secondary reading:

Overviews


Liberty and Diversity

Gerard Bradley, CHURCH-STATE RELATIONSHIPS IN AMERICA, 19-68
Thomas Curry, THE FIRST FREEDOM, 78-104
Richard Painter, PROTESTANT PLURALISM AND THE NEW YORK EXPERIENCE, 53-71

Religion and Politics

Carl Bridenbaugh, MITRE AND SCEPTRE, 171-206
Philip Greven, THE PROTESTANT TEMPERAMENT, 335-61
Gary Nash, THE URBAN CRUCIBLE, 198-232

The Great Awakening

David S. Lovejoy, RELIGIOUS ENTHUSIASM IN THE NEW WORLD, 195-214
Ned Landsman, SCOTLAND AND ITS FIRST AMERICAN COLONY, 227-55
A.G. Roeber, "Germans, Property, and the First Great Awakening: Rehearsal for a Revolution?" in Winfield Herget and Karl Ortseifen, eds., THE TRANSIT OF CIVILIZATION FROM EUROPE TO AMERICA, 165-84

Women

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, GOOD WIVES, 215-35
History 901, sec. 4, Readings in Colonial America, 12

V. IMPERIAL RELATIONS AND POLITICS

Nov. 14 - The First Whiggery

Core reading: David Lovejoy, THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION IN AMERICA

Secondary reading:

The Imperial Relationship

Thomas Barrow, TRADE AND EMPIRE, 20-38
Michael Garibaldi Hall, EDWARD RANDOLPH AND THE AMERICAN COLONIES 1676-1703, 21-52
Michael Kammen, EMPIRE AND INTEREST, 20-44
Alison Gilbert Olson, ANGLO-AMERICAN POLITICS, 1660-1775, 39-74
Ian K. Steele, THE ENGLISH ATLANTIC, 94-110; idem, "Governors or Generals?: A Note on Martial Law and the Revolution of 1689 in English America," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 46 (1989), 304-14
W. A. Speck, "The International and Imperial Context," in Greene and Pole, COLONIAL BRITISH AMERICA, 384-407

Bacon's Rebellion

J. M. Sosin, ENGLISH AMERICA AND THE RESTORATION MONARCHY OF CHARLES II, 182-207
Wilcomb E. Washburn, THE GOVERNOR AND THE REBEL, 139-66
Stephen S. Webb, 1676: THE END OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE, 199-220

The Glorious Revolution in America

Thomas Archdeacon, NEW YORK CITY, 1664-1710, 97-112
Timothy Breen, PURITANS AND ADVENTURERS, 81-105
Lois Green Carr and David W. Jordan, MARYLAND'S REVOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT, 1689-1692, 46-83
Philip S. Haffenden, NEW ENGLAND IN THE ENGLISH NATION 1689-1713, 1-37
Richard Johnson, ADJUSTMENT TO EMPIRE, 71-135
Robert Ritchie, THE DUKE'S PROVINCE, 198-231
J. M. Sosin, ENGLISH AMERICA AND THE REVOLUTION OF 1688, 29-63, 260-62
History 901, sec. 4, Readings in Colonial America, 13

Nov. 21 - The Instability of Similarity

Core reading: Bernard Bailyn, ORIGINS OF AMERICAN POLITICS

Secondary reading:

Overviews

John Murrin, "Political Development," in Greene and Pole, COLONIAL BRITISH AMERICA, 408-56

Law

Stephen Botein, EARLY AMERICAN LAW AND SOCIETY, 31-67
James Kettner, THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP 1608-1870, 65-106

Political Culture and Ideology

Timothy Breen, TOBACCO CULTURE, 3-39
Richard Bushman, KING AND PEOPLE, 88-132
Lawrence Leder, LIBERTY AND AUTHORITY, 95-117
Leonard Levy, THE EMERGENCE OF A FREE PRESS, 16-61
J. R. Pole, THE GIFT OF GOVERNMENT, 1-42
Robert Weir, "'The Harmony We Were Famous For': An Interpretation of Pre-Revolutionary South Carolina Politics," in Katz and Murrin, COLONIAL AMERICA, 3d ed., 421-46

The Imperial Constitution

Jack P. Greene, PERIPHERIES AND CENTER, 7-42
43-76
Jack P. Greene, THE QUEST FOR POWER, 19-47
Michael Kammen, DEPUTIES AND LIBERTIES, 13-68
November 28 - The People, Yes

Core Reading: Edmund S. Morgan, INVENTING THE PEOPLE

Secondary Readings:

Theories of Sovereignty in England and America

Paul Conkin, SELF-EVIDENT TRUTHS, 1-27
Christopher Hill, THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN, 86-120
Michael Kammen, SOVEREIGNTY AND LIBERTY, 3-32
Johann Sommerville, POLITICS AND IDEOLOGY IN ENGLAND, 1603-1640, 57-85

The People as Soldiers

Fred Anderson, A PEOPLE'S ARMY, 167-95
Timothy Breen, PURITANS AND ADVENTURERS, 24-45
Lawrence Delbert Cress, CITIZENS IN ARMS, 15-33

Candidates, Constituents, and Elections

Robert Dinkin, ELECTIONS IN COLONIAL AMERICA, 50-71
Joyce B. and Robert R. Gilsdorf, "Elites and Electorates: Some Plain Truths for Historians of Colonial America," in David Hall et al., eds., SAINTS AND REVOLUTIONARIES, 207-44
Gary Nash, THE URBAN CRUCIBLE, 264-91
Charles Sydnor, GENTLEMAN FREEHOLDERS, chs. 2, 4

Petitions and Representation

Raymond Bailey, POPULAR INFLUENCE UPON PUBLIC POLICY: PETITIONING IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY VIRGINIA, 23-67
J. R. Pole, POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IN ENGLAND AND THE ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC, 33-75
Allan Tully, "Constituent-Representative Relationships in Early America," Canadian Journal of History, 11 (1976), 139-54
VI. PEOPLES AND PLACES

December 5 - The Big Picture

Core Reading:

D. W. Meinig, THE SHAPING OF AMERICA, PT. 1: ATLANTIC AMERICA, 1492-1800

Secondary Readings:

Overviews

James Lemon, "Spatial Order: Households in Local Communities and Regions," in Greene and Pole, COLONIAL BRITISH AMERICA, 86-122
H. Roy Merrens, "Historical Geography and Early American History," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 22 (1965), 529-48

The Environmental Context

William Cronon, CHANGES IN THE LAND, 54-81
Alfred Crosby, THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE, 3-34
Alfred W. Crosby, ECOLOGICAL IMPERIALISM, 2-7, 196-216

Areal Studies

Carville Earle, THE EVOLUTION OF A TIDEWATER PARISH, 62-100
Kevin P. Kelly, "'In dispers'd Country Plantations': Settlement Patterns in Seventeenth-Century Surry County, Virginia," in Tate and Ammerman, CHESAPEAKE, 183-205
James Lemon, "The Weakness of Place and Community in Early Pennsylvania," in Gibson, ed., EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH AMERICA, 190-207
H. Roy Merrens, COLONIAL NORTH CAROLINA, 53-81
Peter Wacker, "The Cultural Geography of Eighteenth Century New Jersey"

Atlantic Worlds

K. R. Davies, THE NORTH ATLANTIC WORLD IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, 35-62
Ralph Davis, THE RISE OF THE ATLANTIC ECONOMIES, 125-42
J. H. Elliott, "Spain and its Empire in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," in David Beers Quinn, ed., EARLY MARYLAND IN A WIDER WORLD, 58-83
Max Savelle, EMPIRES TO NATIONS: EXPANSION IN AMERICA, 1713-1824, 103-22
VII. MIGRATION

Dec. 12 - Patterns of People

Core reading: Bernard Bailyn, THE PEOPLING OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA: AN INTRODUCTION

Overview

Michael Zuckerman, "Identity in British America: Unease in Eden," in Nicholas Canny and Anthony Pagden, COLONIAL IDENTITY IN THE ATLANTIC WORLD, 115-57

The Anglicization Paradigm

Richard Bushman, "American High-Style and Vernacular Cultures," in Greene and Pole, COLONIAL BRITISH AMERICA, 345-83
Harry Stout, THE NEW ENGLAND SOUL, 127-47

Immigrations

David Grayson Allen, IN ENGLISH WAYS, 163-204
Timothy Breen, PURITANS AND ADVENTURERS, 46-67
Theodore Dwight Bozeman, "TO LIVE ANCIENT LIVES": THE PRIMITIVIST DIMENSION IN PURITANISM, 81-119
Carl Bridenbaugh, VEXED AND TROUBLED ENGLISHMEN, 394-433
David Cressy, COMING OVER, 74-106
Russell R. Menard, "British Migration to the Chesapeake Colonies in the Seventeenth Century," in Carr et al., COLONIAL CHESAPEAKE SOCIETY, 99-132
Oliver Rink, HOLLAND ON THE HUDSON, 137-72

The Labor Supply

Bernard Bailyn, VOYAGERS TO THE WEST, 296-323
A. Roger Ekirch, BOUND FOR AMERICA, 97-132
David Galenson, WHITE SERVITUDE IN COLONIAL AMERICA, 141-68
A PROCLAMATION
Regarding Late Papers

Whereas it may come to pass that one or more individuals, whether through dilatoriness, dereliction, irresponsibility, or chutzpah, may seek respite and surcease from escritorial demands through procrastination, delay, and downright evasion;

And whereas this unhappy happenstance contributes mightily to malfeasance on the part of parties of the second part (i.e. students, the instructed, you) and irascibility on the part of us (i.e., me);

Be it therefore known, understood, apprehended, and comprehended:

That all assignments must reach us, or be tendered to the Department Receptionist, on or by the exact hour announced in class, and that failure to comply with this wholesome and most generous regulation shall result in the assignment forfeiting one half letter grade for each day for which it is tardy (i.e. an "A" shall become an "AB"), "one day" being defined as a 24-hour period commencing at the announced hour on which the assignment is due; and that the aforementioned reduction in grade shall continue for each succeeding day of delay until either the assignment shall be remitted or its value shrunk unto nothingness. And let all acknowledge that the responsibility for our receiving papers deposited surreptitio (i.e., in my mailbox or under my door), whether timely or belated, resides with the aforementioned second part parties (i.e., you again), hence onus for the miscarriage of such items falls upon the writer's head (i.e. until I clutch your scribbles to my breast, I assume you have not turned them in, all protestations to the contrary notwithstanding).

Be it nevertheless affirmed:

That the greater part of justice residing in mercy, it may behoove us, acting entirely through our gracious prerogative, to award an extension in such cases that merit it, extensions being granted only upon consultation with us, in which case a negotiated due date shall be proclaimed; it being perfectly well understood that failure to observe this new deadline shall result in the immediate and irreversible failure of the assignment (i.e., an "F"), its value being accounted as a null set and less than that of a vile mote. It should be noted that routine disruptions to routine (i.e. lack of sleep occasioned by pink badgers dancing on the ceiling) do not conduce to mercy, but that severe dislocations brought on by Acts of God (exceedingly traumatic events to the body and/or soul, such as having the earth swallow one up on the way to delivering the assignment) perpetrated either on oneself or on one's loving kindred, do.

And we wish to trumpet forth:

That our purpose in declaiming said proclamation, is not essentially to terminate the wanton flouting of didactic intentions, but to encourage our beloved students to consult with us, and apprehend us of their difficulties aforehand (i.e., talk to me, baby), so that the cruel axe of the executioner fall not upon their Grade Point Average and smite it with a vengeance.

To which proclamation, we do affix our seal: