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 two of the first four papers to confront, but everyone must write the final essay. You need advert only to course readings but may include any relevant materials. If you wish to write on a different topic, please discuss your proposal with me.

DUE FRIDAY, OCT. 2 - Assess how using a multi-racial perspective affects the interpretation of such events as the European exploration of North America, the competition for control of the continent, and the creation of social orders within the colonies.

DUE FRIDAY, OCT. 30 - Using examples from the readings, explain how people in early American settlements identified themselves as members of particular groups and excluded others from those groups. Does the concept of "community" help or hinder such an analysis?

DUE FRIDAY, NOV. 13 - Discuss the importance of transatlantic commerce for determining both the colonies' relationships to England and the development of individual settlements.

DUE FRIDAY, DEC. 4 - Identify what you consider the most salient characteristics of colonial politics and discuss the degree to which they were shaped by imperial and/or indigenous pressures.

DUE FRIDAY, DEC. 18 - What, if anything, was "American" about Britain's mainland American colonies by the mid-eighteenth century?
Rewrite Policy

You may rewrite either or both of the first two assigned papers (time constraints prohibit rewriting the final one), 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 more than a week. The old draft (plus any separate sheet of comments) must accompany the new version. Please note that simply rewriting a paper does 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 ½-step.

I. INTRODUCTION

Sept. 8 - Varieties of Societies

Core reading: Jack P. Greene, PURSUITS OF HAPPINESS
History 901, sec. 4, Readings in Colonial America, 3

II. PEOPLES

Sept. 15 - Tales and Sails

Core reading: Paul E. Hoffman, A NEW ANDALUCIA AND A WAY TO THE ORIENT: THE AMERICAN SOUTHEAST DURING THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

Secondary reading:

European Exploration, Expansion, and Competition

Kenneth R. Andrews, TRADE, PLUNDER AND SETTLEMENT, 116-34
K. G. Davies, THE NORTH ATLANTIC WORLD IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, 3-34
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
John E. Kizca, "Patterns in Early Spanish Overseas Expansion," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 49 (1992), 229-53
Carl Ortwin Sauer, SIXTEENTH CENTURY NORTH AMERICA, 47-76
G. V. Scammell, THE FIRST IMPERIAL AGE: EUROPEAN OVERSEAS EXPANSION C. 1400-1715, 51-70
David Beers Quinn, "Colonies in the Beginning: Examples from North America," in Stanley Palmer and Dennis Reinholtz, eds., ESSAYS ON THE HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICAN DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION, 10-34
David Beers Quinn, "Some Spanish Reactions to Elizabethan Colonial Ventures," in idem, ENGLAND AND THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA, 1481-1620, 266-81

Cultures in the Southeast

James Axtell, "At the Water's Edge: Trading in the Sixteenth Century," in idem, AFTER COLUMBUS, 144-81
Charles Hudson, THE SOUTHEASTERN INDIANS, 97-119
James Merrell, THE INDIANS' NEW WORLD, 8-48
Timothy Silver, A NEW FACE ON THE COUNTRYSIDE: INDIANS, COLONISTS, AND SLAVES IN SOUTH ATLANTIC FORESTS, 1500-1800, 35-66
Sept. 22 - The Radical Middle


Secondary reading:

Overviews

James Axtell, "Colonial America without the Indians," in idem. AFTER COLUMBUS, 222-43

Warfare and Diplomacy

Richard Aquila, THE IROQUOIS RESTORATION, 85-128
Gregory Evans Dowd, A SPIRITED RESISTANCE: THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN STRUGGLE FOR UNITY, 1745-1815, 1-46
Francis Jennings, THE AMBIGUOUS IROQUOIS EMPIRE, 84-112
Francis Jennings, EMPIRE OF FORTUNE, 438-53
Wilbur Jacobs, WILDERNESS POLITICS AND INDIAN GIFTS, 90-114

Patterns of Cultural Interaction

James Axtell, THE INVASION WITHIN, 91-127
Carol Devens, "Separate Confrontations: Gender as a Factor in Indian Adaptation to European Colonization in New France," American Quarterly, 38 (1986), 461-80
Thomas Elliot Norton, THE FUR TRADE IN COLONIAL NEW YORK, 1686-1776, 174-97
Bruce Trigger, THE CHILDREN OF AATAENTSIC, II, 665-724
Bruce Trigger, NATIVES AND NEWCOMERS: CANADA'S "HEROIC AGE" RECONSIDERED, 226-97
Sept. 29 - The Sot-Weed Factor

Core reading: Edmund Morgan, AMERICAN SLAVERY, AMERICAN FREEDOM

Secondary reading:

Overview


Social Organization and Political Stability


Blacks and Slavery

Timothy Breen and Stephen Innes, "MYNE OWN GROUND," 68-109
Kathleen Mary Brown, "Gender and the Genesis of a Race & Class System in Virginia, 1630-1750, chap. 3
Winthrop Jordan, WHITE OVER BLACK, 44-98
Peter Kolchin, UNFREE LABOR, 1-46
Allan Kulikoff, TOBACCO AND SLAVES, 381-420
Philip J. Schwarz, TWICE CONDEMNED: SLAVES AND THE CRIMINAL LAWS OF VIRGINIA, 1705-1865, 66-92
Mechal Sobel, THE WORLD THEY MADE TOGETHER, 30-67
Oct. 6 - Africa on the Ashley

Core reading: Peter Wood, BLACK MAJORITY

Secondary reading:

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
Alan Gallay, THE FORMATION OF A PLANTER ELITE: JONATHAN BRYAN AND THE SOUTHERN COLONIAL FRONTIER, 1-29
Richard Waterhouse, A NEW WORLD GENTRY: THE MAKING OF A MERCHANT AND PLANTER CLASS IN SOUTH CAROLINA, 1670-1770, 52-84

Political Organization

Rachel N. Klein, UNIFICATION OF A SLAVE STATE: THE RISE OF THE PLANTER CLASS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA BACKCOUNTRY, 1760-1808, 9-46
Clarence Ver Steeg, ORIGINS OF A SOUTHERN MOSAIC, 31-68
Robert Weir, COLONIAL SOUTH CAROLINA, 105-40

Blacks and Slavery

Joyce E. Chaplin, "Tidal Rice Cultivation and the Problem of Slavery in South Carolina and Georgia," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 49 (1992), 29-61
A. Leon Higginbotham, IN THE MATTER OF COLOR, 151-215
Daniel C. Littlefield, RICE AND SLAVES, 115-73
Edward A. Pearson, "From Stono to Vesey," chap. 2
Clarence L. Ver Steeg, ORIGINS OF A SOUTHERN MOSAIC, 103-32
III. COMMUNITIES

Oct. 13 - 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
Lois Green Carr, et al., ROBERT COLE'S WORLD, 119-50
Allan Kulikoff, TOBACCO AND SLAVES, 205-60
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
James R. Perry, THE FORMATION OF A SOCIETY ON VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE 1615-1655, 193-238
Robert Wheeler, "The County Court in Colonial Virginia," ibid., 111-34

Economic Organization

Paul Clemens, THE ATLANTIC ECONOMY AND COLONIAL MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE, 120-67
Lois Green Carr and Lorena S. Walsh, "Economic Diversification and Labor Organization in the Chesapeake, 1650-1820," in Innes, WORK, 144-88
Jean B. Russo, "Self-Sufficiency and Local Exchange: Free Craftsmen in the Rural Chesapeake Economy," in Carr et al., op. cit., 389-432

Women

Oct. 20 - The Grote Appel

Core reading: Joyce Goodfriend, *BEFORE THE MELTING POT: SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN COLONIAL NEW YORK CITY, 1664-1730*

Secondary Reading:

Overview


The Dutch

Alice P. Kenny, *STUBBORN FOR LIBERTY: THE DUTCH IN NEW YORK*, 31-67

Ethnicity and Politics

Thomas J. Archdeacon, *NEW YORK CITY, 1664-1710*, 97-146
David A. Armour, *THE MERCHANTS OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, 1686-1760*, 1-50
Randall H. Balmer, "Schism on Long Island: The Dutch Reformed Church, Lord Cornbury, and the Politics of Anglicization," in Pencak and Wright, AUTHORITY AND RESISTANCE, 95-113
Patricia Bonomi, *A FACTIOUS PEOPLE*, 17-55
Firth Haring Fabend, *A DUTCH FAMILY IN THE MIDDLE COLONIES*, 165-89
Adrian Howe, "The Bayard Treason Trial: Dramatizing Anglo-Dutch Politics in Early Eighteenth-Century New York City," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d ser., 47 (1990), 57-89
Sung Bok Kim, *LANDLORD AND TENANT*, 44-86

Ethnicity, Community, and Identity

Maldwyn A. Jones, "The Scotch-Irish in British America," in Bailyn and Morgan, eds., STRANGERS WITHIN THE REALM, 284-313
Ned Landsman, *SCOTLAND'S FIRST AMERICAN COLONY*, 227-63
History 901, sec. 4, Readings in Colonial America, 9

Oct. 27 - 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

Religion

Richard Byers, THE NATION OF NANTUCKET, 102-21
Perry Miller, THE NEW ENGLAND MIND: FROM COLONY TO PROVINCE, 305-23
Carla Pestana, QUAKERS AND BAPTISTS IN COLONIAL MASSACHUSETTS, 120-44

Political organization

Edward M. Cook, Jr., THE FATHERS OF THE TOWNS, 165-83
Bruce Daniels, THE CONNECTICUT TOWN, 119-39, 171-80
David Konig, LAW AND SOCIETY IN PURITAN MASSACHUSETTS, 117-35
William E. Nelson, DISPUTE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, 1725-1825, 3-44

Women

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, A MIDWIFE'S TALE, 72-101
IV. ECONOMY

Nov. 3 - Economic Stability

Core reading: John J. McCusker and Russell R. Menard, THE ECONOMY OF BRITISH AMERICA, 1607-1789

Secondary reading:

The Macroeconomy

Richard Sheridan, "The Domestic Economy," in ibid., 43-85

The Market and Economic Culture

Thomas Doerflinger, A VIGOROUS SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE, 135-64
Daniel Vickers, "Competency and Competition: Economic Culture in Early America," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 47 (1990), 3-29

Labor

A. Roger Ekirch, BOUND FOR AMERICA, 133-66
Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, GOOD WIVES, 13-34

Wealth and Standards of Living

Jackson Turner Main, SOCIETY AND ECONOMY IN COLONIAL CONNECTICUT, 367-82
V. THE IMPERIAL MATRIX

Nov. 10 - The English Connection

Core reading: I. K. Steele, THE ENGLISH ATLANTIC 1675/1740

Secondary reading:

Overviews

John Murrin, "Political Development," in Greene and Pole, COLONIAL BRITISH AMERICA, 408-56
W. A. Speck, "The International and Imperial Context," in Greene and Pole, COLONIAL BRITISH AMERICA, 384-407

Empire and Politics

Michael Kammen, EMPIRE AND INTEREST, 45-71
Douglas Edward Leach, ROOTS OF CONFLICT: BRITISH ARMED FORCES AND COLONIAL AMERICANS, 1677-1763, 8-24
Alison Gilbert Olson, ANGLO-AMERICAN POLITICS, 1660-1775, 39-74

The Imperial Constitution

Jack P. Greene, PERIPHERIES AND CENTER, 7-42
Michael Kammen, DEPUTYES AND LIBERTYES, 13-68

Regulation and Communication

Thomas Barrow, TRADE AND EMPIRE, 134-59
Richard D. Brown, KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, 16-41
Michael GARIBALDI Hall, EDWARD RANDOLPH AND THE AMERICAN COLONIES, 1676-1703, 21-52
Nov. 17 - The First Whiggery

Core reading: David Lovejoy, THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION IN AMERICA

Secondary reading:

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

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
Donna Merwick, POSSESSING ALBANY, 1630-1710, 220-58
Robert Ritchie, THE DUKE'S PROVINCE, 198-231
J. M. Sosin, ENGLISH AMERICA AND THE REVOLUTION OF 1688, 29-63, 260-62

Political Ideology

Bernard Bailyn, THE ORIGINS OF AMERICAN POLITICS, 3-58
Richard L. Bushman, KING AND PEOPLE IN PROVINCIAL MASSACHUSETTS, 11-54
J. R. Pole, THE GIFT OF GOVERNMENT, 1-41
VI. POLITICS

Nov. 24 - The People, Yes

Core Reading: Edmund S. Morgan, INVENTING THE PEOPLE

Secondary Readings:

Theories of Sovereignty in England and America

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 and Constituents

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
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
Dec. 1 - Ports of Importance

Core reading: Gary Nash, THE URBAN CRUCIBLE

Secondary readings:

City Life

Graham Russell Hodges, NEW YORK CITY CARTMEN, 1667-1850, 20-65
Gary Nash, FORGING FREEDOM, 8-37
Billy G. Smith, THE "LOWER SORT": PHILADELPHIA'S LABORING PEOPLE, 92-125

Political Participation and Mobilization

John Brooke, THE HEART OF THE COMMONWEALTH: SOCIETY AND POLITICAL CULTURE IN WORCESTER COUNTY MASSACHUSETTS, 1713-1861, 97-128
Paul Gilje, THE ROAD TO MOBOCRACY, 3-35

War and Society

Fred Anderson, A PEOPLE'S ARMY, 26-62
Carl Bridenbaugh, CITIES IN REVOLT, 98-113
Richard Melvoin, NEW ENGLAND OUTPOST, 209-48
Harold E. Selesky, WAR & SOCIETY IN COLONIAL CONNECTICUT, 99-143
VII. RELIGION

Dec. 8 - The Puritan Century

Core Reading: Stephen Foster, THE LONG ARGUMENT: ENGLISH PURITANISM AND THE SHAPING OF NEW ENGLAND CULTURE, 1570-1700

Secondary Readings:

Overviews

Charles L. Cohen, "Puritanism," (ms)

English Puritanism

Christopher Hill, SOCIETY AND PURITANISM, 124-44
Paul Seaver, WALLINGTON'S WORLD, 143-81

The Errand

Theodore Dwight Bozeman, TO LIVE ANCIENT LIVES, 81-119
Andrew Delbanco, THE PURITAN ORDEAL, 41-80
Robert Middlekauff, THE MATHERS, 96-112
Perry Miller, "Errand Into the Wilderness," in idem, ERRAND INTO THE WILDERNESS, 1-15

Connections and Convergences

John Canup, OUT OF THE WILDERNESS: THE EMERGENCE OF AN AMERICAN IDENTITY IN COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND, 198-240
David Cressy, COMING OVER, 235-62
David D. Hall, THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERD, 72-92

Popular Religion

Charles L. Cohen, GOD'S CARESS, 201-41
Richard Godbeer, THE DEVIL'S DOMINION: MAGIC AND RELIGION IN EARLY NEW ENGLAND, 85-121
David D. Hall, WORLDS OF WONDER, DAYS OF JUDGMENT, 71-116
Charles E. Hambrick-Stowe, THE PRACTICE OF PIETY, 93-135
Amanda Porterfield, FEMALE PIETY IN PURITAN NEW ENGLAND, 80-115
VIII. CULTURAL TRANSMISSION

December 15 - Seedtimes of the Republic

Core Reading: David Hackett Fisher, ALBION'S SEED, 3-11, 783-898, and one of the following sections: 13-205, 207-417, 419-603, 605-781; Jack P. Greene, "Interpretive Frameworks: The Quest for Intellectual Order in Early American History," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 48 (1991), 515-30.

Secondary Readings:

Overviews

David Hackett Fisher, "Albion and the Critics: Further Evidence and Reflection," ibid., 260-308

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

Origins of American Cultures

David Grayson Allen, IN ENGLISH WAYS, 19-54
Bernard Bailyn, THE POPEING OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, 89-131
Bernard Bailyn and Philip D. Morgan, "Introduction," in idem, STRANGERS WITHIN THE REALM, 1-31
Daniel Boorstin, THE AMERICANS: THE COLONIAL EXPERIENCE, 97-143
Perry Miller, "The Shaping of the American Character," in idem, NATURE'S NATION, 1-13
Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History"
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 escrlorial 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: