

Inscribing the New World

This course will explore the ways in which Europeans sought to make sense of their encounter with landscapes, peoples, cultures, and religions for which they had no categories. At the same time, it will also explore efforts of indigenous authors to record the memory of the world before Europeans arrived even as they themselves negotiated European governance, education, and missionizing. It will explore, in other words, the ways in which the story of the Americas has been told and the ways in which those narratives ground certain understandings of self, human agency, culture, and religion.

Requirements: participation in weekly discussion: 60%

- complete readings in advance of class meeting date
- come with one or two prepared questions for discussion

final essay: 40%

- topic to be discussed in first class meeting

Readings: for purchase and on reserve at College Library:

Symcox, Geoffrey & Sullivan, Blair, Editors. *Christopher Columbus and the Enterprise of the Indies: A Brief History with Documents*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005.

Columbus, *The Four Voyages*. Penguin, 1992.

Pané, Ramón. *An Account of the Antiquities of the Indians*. Duke University Press, 1999.

More, Thomas. *Utopia*. Norton Critical Edition, 1991.

Cortes, Hernan. *Letters from Mexico*. Edited Anthony Pagden. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001.

Leon-Portillo, Miguel. *The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico*. Beacon Press, 1992.

Schwartz, Stuart B. *Victors and Vanquished: Spanish and Nahua Views of the Conquest of Mexico*. Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2000.

Lery, Jean de. *History of a Voyage to the Land of Brazil*. University of California Press, 1993.

Montaigne, Michel de. *Essays*. Penguin Classics, 1993 (1958).

Titu Cusi Yupanqui. *An Inca Account of the Conquest of Peru*. Colorado, 2005.

Betanzos, Juan de. *Narrative of the Incas*. University of Texas Press, 1996.

Cieza de León, Pedro de. *The Discovery and Conquest of Peru*. Duke University Press, 1998.

Cobo, Bernabe. *History of the Inca Empire*. University of Texas Press, 2005 (1979).

Guaman Poma de Ayala, Felipe. *The First New Chronicle and Government*. Translated David L. Frye. Hackett Books, 2006.

Weekly topics and assignments:

- Week 1
1/20 What happened?
📖 *Christopher Columbus and the Enterprise of the Indies*,
documents numbers 1-9, 23-33.
- Week 2:
1/27 Columbus and the Indies
📖 Columbus, *The Four Voyages*, First Voyage & pp. 129-57, 206-26, 265-76,
283-317.
- Week 3
2/3 The Indies Observed
📖 Pané, *An Account of the Antiquities of the Indians*, entire.
- Week 4
2/10 The Possibility of Alternative Worlds
📖 More, Text of *Utopia*, entire.
- Week 5
2/17 The Conquest of Mexico: Telling the Story
📖 *Victors and Vanquished*, pp. 29-80, 84-99, 119-26, 128-55, 177-81, 184-96,
211-13, 221-43.
- Week 6
2/24 The Conquest of Mexico: Conquistadores
📖 Cortes, *Letters from Mexico*, First and Second Letters.
- Week 7
3/3 The Conquest of Mexico: Aztec Accounts
📖 Leon-Portillo, *The Broken Spears*, entire.
- Week 8
3/10 Cannibals and Europeans
📖 Lery, *History of a Voyage to the Land of Brazil*, chapters 1-2, 5-9, 15-20.
- Week 9
3/17 Cannibals and Europeans
📖 Montaigne, *Essays*, Book I, chapters 31 & 36; Book III, chapter 13.
- Week 10
3/24 Memories of the Incas
📖 Titu Cusi Yupanqui, *An Inca Account of the Conquest*, entire.

SPRING BREAK

- Week 11
4/7 Memory and Narrative
📖 Betanzos, *Narrative of the Incas*, Part One.
- Week 12
4/14 Reconstructing the Inca Empire
📖 Betanzos, *Narrative of the Incas*, Part One
- Week 13
4/21 The Conquest of Peru
📖 Cieza de León, *The Discovery and Conquest of Peru*, TofC,
- Week 14
4/28 Reconstructing Imperial History
📖 Cobo, *History of the Inca Empire*, pp. 3-107, 185-256.

Week 15

Memory and Identity

5/5



Guaman Poma de Ayala, Felipe. *The First New Chronicle and Government*.

<http://www.kb.dk/elib/mss/poma/>

Secondary literature:

MacCormack, Sabine. *Religion in the Andes*. Princeton University Press, 1993.

Rabasa, José. *Inventing America: Spanish Historiography and the Invention of Eurocentrism* (Oklahoma, 1993).

Schwartz, Stuart B. *Implicit Understandings: Observing, Reporting, and Reflecting on the Encounters Between Europeans and Other Peoples in the Early Modern Era* (New York, 1994).