SPRING 2017 SYLLABUS
HISTORY 910: READINGS IN COLONIAL NORTH AMERICA

Friday, 8:45-10:45 | Grainger Hall, Room 1080

Professor Gloria Whiting | gwhiting@wisc.edu | 5108 Mosse Humanities Building
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:45-2:45 PM or by appointment

Course Description

Historians once understood the history of “Colonial North America” as the history of the thirteen British colonies that united in the American Revolution. But a generation of historical scholarship has enormously expanded the scope of colonial America. Many scholars posit that early North American history must include what historians have come to call the “Atlantic World,” and some call for a global approach. In this course we will grapple with the debate over what properly constitutes early America, and, while we will keep North America as our point of reference, we will continually situate the British North American colonies in their broader Atlantic context.

This course is historiographical in nature; that is, it is intended to help you understand how historians have wrestled with this subject matter over time. By the end of the semester, you should be conversant with major debates in early American history and with the ways in which the field has developed. Together we will consider an array of topics, including maritime exploration, imperial expansion, migration, race and power, slavery and the trans-Atlantic slave trade, religion and belief, women and gender, the development of the American colonies; the emergence of an Atlantic economy, and the struggles of many for independence during the Age of Revolutions.

Requirements:

Participation: This seminar requires you to read, to write, and to discuss what you’ve read and written about with your peers. Since this is a discussion-based seminar, that third element is crucial to the success of the course. I expect that each student will participate in each discussion this semester.

Discussion facilitation: In addition to actively participating in all discussions, each student will help facilitate our discussion once during the semester. In the week you lead discussion, you’ll be responsible for four things: 1) finding at least three academic reviews of the central text assigned for that week; 2) preparing a one-page handout for your peers that summarizes these reviews; 3) posting on the discussion board by Monday night a series of questions to guide our Friday discussion; and 4) opening and directing the discussion on Friday morning.

Writing Assignments: You will have three types of writing assignments this semester.
1) **Book Review:** Each student will write one review of a book listed as “supplemental reading.” In 600-800 words, you should describe the book’s arguments, methods, and sources, as well as assess its strengths and weaknesses. This should be similar to what you would find in, say, *The Journal of American History*. Please choose a work that you will not consider in depth in your historiographical paper. Be sure to spend some time thinking about how the book you reviewed relates to the other work assigned for that week, as well as to the course material more broadly. We’ll expect you to enrich our discussion through your mastery of this related scholarship. (These reviews should be emailed to me by 5pm on the Thursday before our meeting.)

2) **50-Word Responses:** Over the course of the semester, each student will write five responses of 50 words (yes, exactly 50 words) and upload those responses to the appropriate discussion list by 8pm on the Thursday before our meeting. The first three responses should capture, as precisely as possible, the argument of that week’s book. The second two responses should do the same, while they also take into account the argument or implications of that week’s assigned article. Students may choose which weeks to write these responses, but they should write these 50-word responses on weeks they are not already writing a book review or facilitating the seminar discussion.

3) **Historiographical Essay:** This 15-20 page historiographical essay may be on any topic you like, provided it is relevant to the history of early America (broadly construed). You should start by identifying book- and article-length scholarship pertinent to your topic, making sure to consider both recent and older works. Depending on your topic, you may find the syllabus a useful starting place, but there is a great deal of important scholarship that didn’t make it onto the syllabus, so search widely. You will discuss your interests with me on March 17, when we have individual meetings in my office rather than a seminar discussion. Please turn in a description of your topic, as well as a complete bibliography, on April 7. Your final paper should be emailed to me by 5pm on May 12.

**Breakdown of Grade:**

- Seminar attendance and participation: 30%
- Discussion facilitator: 10%
- Book review: 10%
- Five 50-word assignments: 20% (lowest grade dropped)
- Final historiographical paper: 30%

**Grading Scale:**

- A (92.50+);
- AB (87.50-92.49);
- B (82.50-87.49);
- BC (77.50-82.49);
- C (69.50-77.49);
- D (60-69.49);
- F (Below 60)

**Readings:**

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You will need the books below, which will be read in full:

Alfred Cosby, *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (1972)

Most of the readings assigned in this course focus on particular topics within the broad sweep of early American history rather than providing a grand narrative. If you are ever feeling a bit lost and would like some background, I recommend referencing the following texts (which are not required):


**Computer Policy:**

I ask that you refrain from using computers and all other electronic devices during our seminar. Cell phones should be silenced and put away.

**Course Schedule:**

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**JANUARY 20: INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

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**JANUARY 27: WHERE IS COLONIAL AMERICA?**

**Required Readings:**

Supplemental Readings:

- Nicholas Canny, “Writing Atlantic History; or, Reconfiguring the History of Colonial British America,” *JAH* (Dec. 1999): 1093-1114
- Alison Games, “Atlantic History: Definitions, Challenges, and Opportunities,” *AHR* (June 2006): 741-757

**FEBRUARY 3: BUILDING AN IBERIAN CONTEXT**

Required Readings:


Supplemental Readings:

**General Overviews of the Spanish and Portuguese Empires in the Americas**


**Comparative Atlantic Empires**

• Jane Landers, *Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions* (2010)

**Iberian Exploration and Discovery**

• Kathleen Deagan and José María Cruxent, *Columbus’s Outpost among the Tainos: Spain and America at La Isabela, 1493-1498* (2002).

**Africans and the Slave Trade in the Iberian Atlantic**

• Linda A. Newson and Susie Minchin, *From Capture to Sale: The Portuguese Slave Trade to Spanish South America in the Early Seventeenth Century* (2007).

**Economy and Society in the Iberian Atlantic**

• Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert, *A Nation Upon the Ocean Sea: Portugal’s Atlantic Diaspora and the Crisis of the Spanish Empire, 1492-1640* (2007).
• Alexandra Parma Cook and David Noble Cook, *Good Faith and Truthful Ignorance: A Case of Transatlantic Bigamy* (1991)

**Native Peoples in Iberian America**
• David Noble Cook, *Born to Die: Disease and New World Conquest, 1492-1650* (1998)
• Alida C. Metcalf, *Go-Betweens and the Colonization of Brazil, 1500-1600* (2005)

**Evangelization**
• Susan Elizabeth Ramírez, *To Feed and Be Fed: The Cosmological Bases of Authority and Identity in the Andes* (2005)

**The Spanish Caribbean**
• Kris E. Lane, *Pillaging the Empire: Piracy in the Americas, 1500-1750* (1998)
• Carl Ortwin Sauer, *The Early Spanish Main* (1966)

**The Spanish in North America**

• Steven W. Hackel, *Children of Coyote, Missionaries of Saint Francis: Indian-Spanish Relations in Colonial California, 1769-1850* (2005)
• Ramon A. Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846* (1991)
• Steven W. Hackel, *Junípero Serra: California’s Founding Father* (2013)

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**FEBRUARY 10: OF EPIDEMICS & THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Required Readings:**

Alfred Cosby, *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (1972)

**Supplemental Readings:**

*Environmental Histories of Early American Places*


*Epidemics*

• David Jones, “Virgin Soils Revisited” WMQ (October 2003): 703-42
• Elisabeth A. Fenn, Pox Americana: The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-82 (2001)
• David Noble Cook, Born to Die: Disease and New World Conquest, 1492-1650 (1998)

Environment & Commodities
• Jennifer L. Anderson, Mahogany: The Costs of Luxury in Early America (2012)
• Elinor G. K. Melville, Plague of Sheep: Environmental Consequences of the Conquest of Mexico (1994)
• Virginia DeJohn Anderson, Creatures of Empire: How Domestic Animals Transformed Early America (2002)
• Londa Schiebinger, Plants and Empire: Colonial Bioprospecting in the Atlantic World (2007)
• Sidney Mintz, Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History (1985)

FEBRUARY 17: SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY FOUNDATIONS OF ANGLO-AMERICA

Required Readings:
Alison Games, Migration and the Origins of the English Atlantic World (2001) Introduction, Chapter 2, and Chapter 4

Supplemental Readings:

English Islands
• Carl and Roberta Bridenbaugh, No Peace Beyond the Line: The English in the Caribbean, 1624-1690 (1972)
• Richard S. Dunn, Sugar and Slaves: The Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies, 1624-1713 (1972)
• Karen Ordahl Kupperman, Providence Island, 1630-1641: The Other Puritan Colony (1995)
Planting Virginia

- David Hackett Fischer, Albion’s Seed: Four British Folkways in America (1989)
- James Horn, Adapting to a New World: English Society in the Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake (1996)
- Camilla Townsend, Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma (2004)

Founding New England


Migration & the Sea

- Carl Bridenbaugh, Vexed and Troubled Englishmen: 1590-1642 (1968)
- David Hackett Fischer and James C. Kelly, Bound Away: Virginia and the Westward Movement (2000)

FEBRUARY 24: CAPITALIZING ON SLAVERY

Required Readings:

Gregory O’Malley, “Beyond the Middle Passage: Slave Migration from the Caribbean to North America, 1619-1807” WMQ (Jan. 2009): 125-172

Supplemental Readings:

Slavery and the Law:
• Edward Rugemer, “The Development of Mastery and Race in the Comprehensive Slave Codes of the Greater Caribbean during the Seventeenth Century” WMQ (July 2013): 429-58
• David Barry Gaspar, “Rigid and Inclement: Origins of the Jamaica Slave Laws of the Seventeenth Century,” in Christopher Tomlins and Bruce Mann, eds., The Many Legalities of Early America (2001), 78-96
• Sally Hadden, “The Fragmented Laws of Slavery in the Colonial and Revolutionary Eras,” in Michael Grossberg and Christopher Tomlins, eds., The Cambridge History of Law in America (2008) 1:253-87
• Rebecca J. Scott, “Slavery and the Law in Atlantic Perspective: Jurisdiction, Jurisprudence, and Justice” Law and History Review (Nov. 2011): 915-924
• Alan Watson, Slave Law in the Americas (1989)

Africa and the Slave Trade
• Herbert Klein, The Atlantic Slave Trade (1999)
• Gregory O’Malley, Final Passages: The Intercolonial Slave Trade of British America, 1619-1807 (2014)
• Randy J. Sparks, Where the Negroes are Masters: An African Port in the Era of the Slave Trade (2014)
• David Wheat, Atlantic Africa and the Spanish Caribbean, 1570-1640 (2016)
Capitalism, Commerce, Slave-Produced Commodities

- Sidney Mintz, Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History (1985)

Slavery in the Atlantic World

- David Brion Davis, The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture (1966 rev. 1988)
- Herbert S. Klein and Ben Vinson III, African Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean (rev. 2007)

MARCH 3: SLAVERY & SOCIETY

Required Readings:

Ira Berlin, Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America (1998)

Supplemental Readings:

African American Communities
• Richard S. Dunn, A Tale of Two Plantations: Slave Life and Labor in Jamaica and Virginia (2014)
• Leslie M. Harris, In the Shadow of Slavery: African Americans in New York City, 1626-1863 (2003)
• Philip Morgan, Slave Counterpoint: Black Culture in the Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake and Lowcountry (1998)
• Lorena S. Walsh, From Calabar to Carter’s Grove: The History of a Virginia Slave Community (1997)
• Peter Wood, Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 through the Stono Rebellion (1966)

The Black Atlantic
• John F. Sensbach, Rebecca’s Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World (2005)
• Wendy A. Warren, New England Bound: Slavery and Colonization in Early America (2016)

Masters and Slaves
• Trevor Burnard, Mastery, Tyranny, and Desire: Thomas Thistlewood and His Slaves in the Anglo-Jamaican World (2004)
• S. Max Edelson, Plantation Enterprise in Colonial South Carolina (2006)
• David Barry Gaspar, Bondmen and Rebels: A Study of Master-Slave Relations in Antigua, with Implications for Colonial British America (1985)
MARCH 10: WOMEN & GENDER

Required Readings:


Supplemental Readings:

*Gender in Native Communities*

- Ramon A. Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846* (1991)

*Gender and Power*

• Judith Apter Klinghoffer and Lois Elkins, “‘The Petticoat Electors’: Women’s Suffrage in New Jersey, 1776-1807,” Journal of the Early Republic (Summer, 1992)

**Women’s Lives**
• Woody Holton, Abigail Adams: A Life (2010)
• Nancy Cott, The Bonds of Womanhood: “Woman’s Sphere” in New England, 1780-1835 (1977)
• Linda Kerber, Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America (1980)
• Alfred Young, Masquerade: The Life and Times of Deborah Sampson, Continental Soldier (2004)
• Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, A Midwife’s Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812 (1990)
• Susan E. Klepp, Revolutionary Conceptions: Women, Fertility, and Family Limitation in America, 1760-1820 (2009)
• Cynthia Kierner, Beyond the Household: Women’s Place in the Early South, 1700-1835 (1998)

**Manhood & Masculinity**
• Thomas Foster, Sex and the Eighteenth-Century Man: Massachusetts and the History of Sexuality in America (2006)
• Lisa Wilson, Ye Heart of a Man: The Domestic Life of Men in Colonial New England (1999)
• Richard Godbeer, Sexual Revolution in Early America (2001)
• Cassandra A. Good, Founding Friendships: Friendships Between Men and Women in the Early American Republic (2015)
• John McCurdy, Citizen Bachelors: Manhood and the Creation of the United States (2009).

**Bodies, Cleanliness & Health**
• Kathleen Brown, Foul Bodies: Cleanliness in Early America (2009)
• Forum on Foul Bodies, WMQ (Oct. 2011)
• Alison Piepmeier, Out in Public: Configurations of Women’s Bodies in Nineteenth-Century America (2004)
• Janet Moore Lindman and Michele Lise Tarter, ed., A Centre of Wonders: The Body in Early America (2001)
• Erica Charters, “Making Bodies Modern: Race, Medicine, and the Colonial Soldier in the Mid-Eighteenth Century,” *Patterns of Prejudice* (July 2012)

**MARCH 17: NO SEMINAR**

Individual meetings re: historiographical essays

**MARCH 24: NO SEMINAR**

Spring break!

**MARCH 31: INDIANS & EMPIRES**

Required Readings:


Supplemental Readings:

*The French and the Indians*
• Forum on *The Middle Ground*, *WMQ* (Jan. 2006)
• Patricia Galloway, *Choctaw Genesis, 1500-1700* (1995)
• Bruce Trigger, *Natives and Newcomers: Canada’s “Heroic Age” Reconsidered* (1985)
• Daniel Royot, *Divided Loyalties in a Doomed Empire: The French in the West from New France to the Lewis and Clark Expedition* (2007)

**Exchange in the Borderlands**

• Robbie Ethridge and Sheri M. Shuck-Hall, eds., *Mapping the Mississippian Shatter Zone: The Colonial Slave Trade and Regional Instability in the American South* (2009)
• Joseph M. Hall, Jr., *Zamuno’s Gifts: Indian-European Exchange in the Colonial Southeast* (2009)

**Indian Warfare and Diplomacy**

• José António Brandão, “Your Fyre Shall Burn no More”: Iroquois Policy toward New France and Its Native Allies to 1701 (1997)

**Imperial Warfare**

• Paul W. Mapp, *The Elusive West and the Contest for Empire, 1713-1763* (2012)
The Native West

- Pekka Hämäläinen, The Comanche Empire (2008)
- Elizabeth A Fenn, Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People (2014)

Indians and Europeans in the North American Interior

- Juliana Barr, Peace Came in the Form of a Woman: Indians and Spaniards in the Texas Borderlands (2007)

APRIL 7: ATLANTIC POLITICAL ECONOMIES—LIFE, LABOR, AND THE PURSUIT OF STUFF

Required Readings:


Supplemental Readings:

Agriculture

- Allan Kulikoff, From British Peasants to Colonial American Farmers (2000)
Extractive Industries

- W. Jeffrey Bolster, “Putting the Ocean in Atlantic History: Maritime Communities and Marine Ecology in the Northwest Atlantic, 1500-1800,” AHR (Feb. 2008)
- W. Jeffrey Bolster, The Mortal Sea: Fishing the Atlantic in the Age of Sail (2012)
- Dana Murillo, Urban Indians in a Silver City: Zacatecas, Mexico, 1546-1810 (2016)

Capitalism, Consumption, and Economic Culture

- Ellen Hartigan-O’Connor, The Ties that Buy: Women and Commerce in Revolutionary America (2011)
- Carole Shammas, The Pre-Industrial Consumer in England and America (1990)

Transatlantic Commerce and Communication

- David Hancock, Oceans of Wine: Madeira and the Emergence of American Trade and Taste (2009)
- Michael J. Jarvis, In The Eye of All Trade: Bermuda, Bermudians, and the Maritime Atlantic World, 1680-1783 (2012)
- Adrian Finucane, The Temptations of Trade: Britain, Spain, and the Struggle for Empire (2016)
- Kenneth J. Banks, Chasing Empire Across the Sea: Communications and the State in the French Atlantic, 1713-1763 (2002)

Imperial Administration


**APRIL 14: NO CLASS**

Independent work on historiographical essays

**APRIL 21: THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

Required Readings:


Supplemental Readings:

**African Americans and the Revolution**

• Manisha Sinha, “To ‘cast just obloquy’ on Oppressors: Black Radicalism in the Age of Revolution,” *WMQ* (Jan. 2007)

**Agrarian and Backcountry Rebellions**


• Brendan McConville, *These Daring Disturbers of the Public Peace: The Struggle for Property and Power in Early New Jersey* (1999)

**The Internal Revolution**


• Michael A. McConnell, *The Politics of War: Race, Class and Conflict in Revolutionary Virginia* (2007)


• Barbara Clark Smith, *The Freedoms We Lost: Consent and Resistance in Revolutionary America* (2010)

**The Revolution in Indian Country**


**Republican and Monarchical Discourses**


• Richard L. Bushman, *King and People in Provincial Massachusetts* (1985)


**Britain and Its Loyalists**

• Andrew Jackson O’Shaughnessy, The Men Who Lost America: British Leadership, the American Revolution, and the Fate of Empire (2013)
• Maya Jasanoff, Liberty’s Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World (2011)
• Simon Schama, Rough Crossings: The Slaves, the British, and the American Revolution (2005)

APRIL 28: ATLANTIC REVOLUTIONS

Required Readings:

Wim Klooster, Revolutions in the Atlantic World: A Comparative History (2009)

Supplemental Readings:

The American Revolution in Wider Context

• Eliga Gould, Among the Powers of the Earth: The American Revolution and the Making of a New World Empire (2012)
• Lester D. Langley, The Americas in the Age of Revolution, 1750-1850 (1996)
• Janet Polasky, Revolutions without Borders: The Call to Liberty in the Atlantic World (2016)

The French Revolution in the Western Hemisphere

• Suzanne Desan, Lynn Hunt, and William Max Nelson, eds., The French Revolution in Global Perspective (2013)
• Laurent Dubois, A Colony of Citizens: Revolution and Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean, 1787-1804 (2004)
• Francois Furstenberg, When the United States Spoke French: Five Refugees Who Shaped a Nation (2014)
Latin American Revolutions


The Haitian Revolution


MAY 12: FINAL PAPER DUE VIA EMAIL BY 5PM