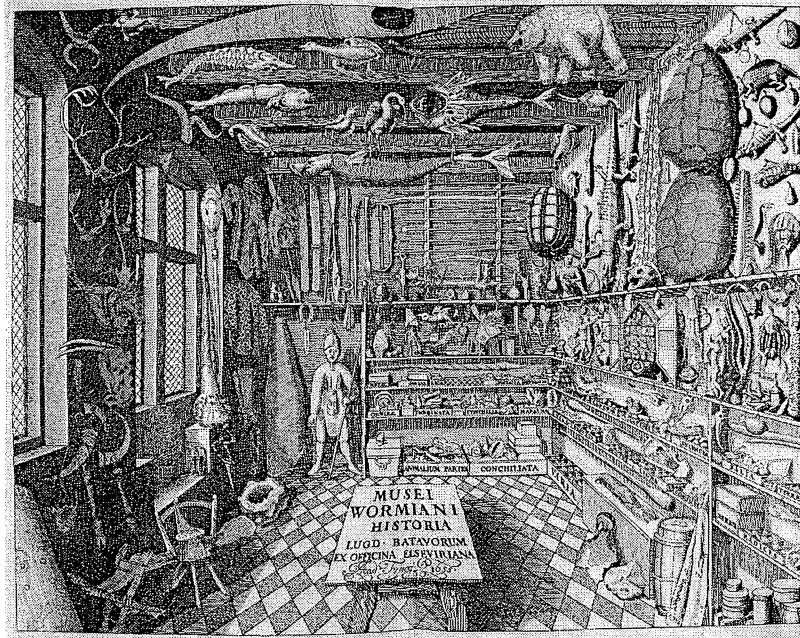


HISTORY OF SCIENCE 280: Undergraduate Seminar
 Topic: Science, Medicine, and Technology in the Age of European Exploration
 Fall 2009
 1:20pm-3:15pm Wed
 4308 Social Science



instructor: Florence Hsia
 office: 229 Bradley Memorial
 office hours: 3:30-5:30pm Wednesdays and by appt.
 phone: 262-3971
 email: <fchsia@wisc.edu>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From the Columbian voyages to lunar voyages, from the literature of discovery to literature about discovery, early modern European explorations of various 'new worlds' served as an important arena for revisiting existing concepts of both the natural and the moral spheres. This honors course focuses on how European concepts of nature colored - and were themselves colored by - early modern European exploration of the globe during the two centuries or so following Christopher Columbus' 'discovery' of the New World. Readings may include European encounters with Brazilian cannibals or Chinese mandarins; debates over the curative powers of tobacco, tea, and coffee; navigational and cartographical techniques; and the impact of European exploration on natural histories, cabinets of curiosity, and other scientific enterprises in the period.

The first half of the course has a reading/discussion seminar format that emphasizes the skills of analyzing historical sources and of constructing persuasive arguments about historical questions. It is extremely important that you complete the readings assigned for each class session before coming to class. **Please bring the readings to class with you.**

The second half of the course has a workshop format that emphasizes verbal and written presentations. Please pay close attention to the schedule of due dates and presentations! You can use the "Checklist" button on the Learn@UW page for this class for schedule prompts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. Attend classes.
2. Prepare assigned readings.
3. Grades will be based on one group position statement, one project report, one individual presentation, and the final written version of your individual presentation.

Grades will be calculated using the following rough guidelines:

group position statement (Sept. 2–Oct. 21)	~10%
project report (Nov. 4–18)	~20%
individual presentation (Dec. 2–9)	~20%
individual presentation, final written version	~50%

The final written version of the individual presentation is due by 5:00pm, December 18 (Friday).

COURSE POLICIES

I will make every effort to honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. If you think you may qualify for accommodation, please contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center at 263-2741 (<http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/>) to establish your eligibility for services. If you require accommodation, please let me know as soon as possible in the semester. All requests are confidential.

Academic honesty is expected of students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in compliance with the student code of conduct. All written work that you turn in under your name should be solely your work. Both paper and internet sources must be acknowledged; failure to understand what counts as plagiarism is not an adequate excuse. Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct carry penalties. Feel free to talk to me if you have any questions about how to properly cite sources in your written work. You can also consult the Writing Center's guide to quoting sources (<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/QuotingSources.html>).

COURSE MATERIALS

- Assigned materials for this class are all available online via Learn@UW.
- I may assign some readings in an electronic work, Patrick Rael's *Reading, writing, and researching for history: a guide for college students*, Brunswick, ME: Bowdoin College, 2004. This work is linked on Learn@UW and is also directly accessible online at <http://academic.bowdoin.edu/WritingGuides/>.
- Recommended background reading: Glenn J. Ames, *The globe encompassed* (Prentice Hall, 2008) – used copies for under \$15 via bookfinder.com or used.adall.com

Learn@UW:

To access the Learn@UW page for this course, you can

- login at <https://learnuw.wisc.edu/>
- from the UW-Madison homepage (<http://wisc.edu/>), look right and click on the Learn@UW link
- login to My UW (<http://my.wisc.edu/>) and
 1. under the "Home" tab, click on the Learn@UW link under "Campus Quick Links"
 2. under the "Academics" tab, click on the Learn@UW link for your course

What is on the Learn@UW page for this course?

- **Content** button: click to access online reading material for this class
- **Schedule** button: click to access a calendar of events for this class (due dates + presentations)
- **Links** button: click to access various research and writing guides (more on these in the latter half of the semester)
- **Locker** button: click to store and access your personal files (useful for storing class presentation materials)
- **Classlist** and **Email** buttons: click to contact fellow students. You can also email the entire class directly using the email address <histsci280-1-f09@lists.wisc.edu>

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND DUE DATES

Sept. 2: Introductions

Sept. 9: Navigating new worlds: the *Casa de la Contratación*

Sept. 16: Peopling new worlds: Thomas Hariot's Virginia

Sept. 23: Mapping new worlds: John Smith's Virginia

Sept. 30: Baconian inquiries

Oct. 7: *Philosophical transactions* (Special Collections)

Oct. 14: Cabinets of curiosity

Oct. 21: Scientific voyages and expeditions

Oct. 28: "The Curious Mister Catesby" (film)

Nov. 4: project reports

Nov. 11: project reports

Nov. 18: project reports

Nov. 25 (W): no class meeting

Dec. 2: presentations

Dec. 9: presentations

Final written version of individual presentation due by 5:00pm, December 18 (Friday).

