

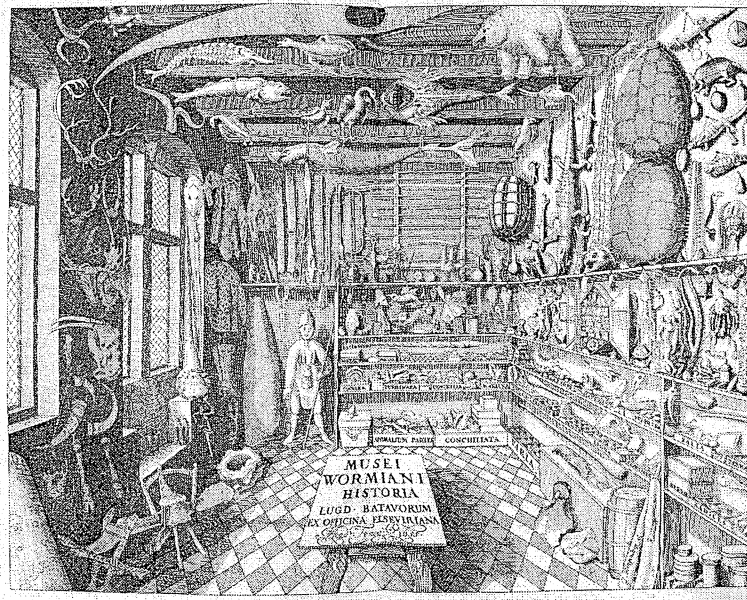
HISTORY OF SCIENCE 280: Undergraduate Seminar

Topic: Science, Medicine, and Technology in the Age of European Exploration

Spring 2009

1:20pm-3:15pm Wed

6116 Social Science



instructor: Florence Hsia
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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.

This course has a reading/discussion seminar format that emphasizes the skills of analyzing historical sources and of writing 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.**

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 five (5) short assessments of assigned readings, two group workshop presentations (February 11 and March 11), and the final written version of your individual presentation (weeks 11-15). Grades will be calculated using the following rough guidelines:

five (5) short reading assessments	~30%
two (2) group presentations, February 11 and March 11	~20%
one (1) individual presentation, final written version	~50%

The final written version of presentation due by 2:00pm, May 14 (Thursday)

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.

Recommended background reading: Glenn J. Ames, *The globe encompassed* (Prentice Hall, 2008) – used copies for under \$15 via bookfinder.com or used.adall.com

There are a few assigned 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/>. References in the syllabus to Rael's guide are to section (number and title, e.g. 2a, "How to Read a Secondary Source").

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-s09@lists.wisc.edu>

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS AND TOPICS

1) Jan 21: introductions(2) Jan 28: Navigating new worlds

Monmonier, *Rhumb lines and map wars* (2004), selections (handout)

VIEW a page from the "Vallard Atlas" (Learn@UW)

Sandman, "Mirroring the world" (2002) (handout)

Rael, 2a, "How to Read a Secondary Source" (handout)

Vespucci, *Mundus novus [New world]* (1502-1503) and 1508 decree confirming Vespucci's appointment as Pilot Major (handout)

"Amerigo Vespucci" (2003) (handout)

VIEW Gutiérrez, *Americae...nova et exactissima descriptio* (1562) (Learn@UW)

Hébert, *The 1562 map of America by Diego Gutiérrez* (handout, Learn@UW)

"Gutiérrez" (1999) (handout)

(3) Feb 4: Mapping new worlds

Harley, *The new nature of maps* (2001), chap. 1

Smith, *A map of Virginia* (1612), selections + map

Rael, 2b, "How to Read a Primary Source"

Blansett, "John Smith maps Virginia" (2005)

Smith, *The generall historie of Virginia, New England...* (1624), title page + selections

Corbett + Lightbown, *The comely frontispiece* (1979), no. 15

(4) Feb 11: Map workshop(5) Feb 18: Natural goods

De Vos, "The science of spices" (2006)

Norton, "Tasting empire: chocolate" (2006)

Mancall, "Tales tobacco told in sixteenth-century Europe" (2004)

(6) Feb 25: Baconian inquiries

Bacon, *New atlantis* (1627), selections

Carey, "Compiling nature's history" (1997)

Serjeantson, "Natural knowledge in the New Atlantis" (2002)

Burnett, "The engraved title-page" (1998)

(7) March 4: Cabinets of curiosity

Hubert, *A catalogue of many natural rarities* (1664), selections

Grew, *Whereas a book intituled, Musæum Regalis Societatis* (1680)

Grew, *Musaeum Regalis Societatis, or, A catalogue & description of the natural and artificial rarities belonging to the Royal Society* (1681), selections

Yaya, "Wonders of America" (2008)

Hunter, "Between cabinet of curiosities and research collection" (1989)

(8) March 11: Collecting workshop (Special Collections)

March 18: spring break

(9) March 25: Voyages

Cassini, 'Voyages to Cape Verde' (1684)

Tachard, *A relation of the voyage to Siam* (1688), selections

Dew, "Atlantic triangulation" (2000)

(10) April 1: Expeditions

Maupertuis, *The figure of the earth* (1738), selections

Terrall, "Heroic narratives of quest and discovery" (1998)

Safier, "Unveiling the Amazon" (2001)

(11) **April 6 (Mo):** Safier Mellon workshop, 4:00pm (SLIS Commons, HCW 4207)

(12) April 15: presentations

(13) April 22: presentations

(14) April 29: presentations

(15) May 6: presentations

Final written version of presentation due by 2:00pm, May 14 (Thursday)