

HISTORY OF SCIENCE 555: Undergraduate Seminar

Topic: Science and Exploration

Spring 2008

1:20pm-3:15pm Wed

6116 Social Science

instructor: Florence Hsia

office: 7137 Social Science

office hours: 11:00am-1:00pm Wednesdays and by appt.

phone: 262-3971

email: <fchsia@wisc.edu>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar introduces majors in History of Science to the process of doing history, not just reading it. The course will guide students through the steps involved in producing a 15- to 25-page paper based on original historical research using primary sources. These steps include analyzing historical sources, constructing arguments about historical questions, selecting a topic, creating bibliographies, and writing/revising an historical research paper. The topic for this semester 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.

The first half of the course is primarily 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 - especially those in the Course Reader - to class with you.

The second half of the course is primarily a writing workshop format that emphasizes library research and writing. 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 six (6) exercises in source analysis; two (2) in-class presentations (presentation of Thesis paragraph + revised annotated bibliography; peer review of draft papers); and the research paper. Grades will be calculated using the following rough guidelines:

six (6) exercises in source analysis	~30%
two (2) in-class presentations, April 2/9 and April 23/30	~20%
final research paper due by 2:00pm, May 13 (Tuesday)	~50%

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 may be accessed in two different formats: on paper in the Course Reader (marked **CR** in the syllabus), and online via Learn@UW (marked **link** in the syllabus). Some assignments are only available in the CR; some assignments are available both in the CR and via Learn@UW; and some assignments are available only via Learn@UW.

There are some 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. "2.a. How to Read a Secondary Source"). The lefthand pane allows you to scroll to the appropriate section.

Learn@UW:

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

- login at <https://learnuw.wisc.edu/>
- go to the main UW-Madison homepage (<http://wisc.edu/>), and click on the Learn@UW link on the right
- 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. Items marked **CR** are also in the Course Reader.
- **Checklist** button: click to access a checklist of step-by-step tasks in writing your research paper for this class, as well as reminders for due dates and presentations.
- **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 <histsci555-1-s08@lists.wisc.edu>.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS AND TOPICS

CR = Course Reader

link = available via Learn@UW

(1) Jan 23: introductionsGUIDE: Rael, 4.a-b. "Research Papers" and 4.d. "Research Journal" ([link](#), [handout](#))(2) Jan 30: Columbus, cosmography, and historical contexts

READINGS

- Karl W. Butzer, "From Columbus to Acosta: science, geography, and the New World," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 82, no. 3 (1992): 543-65 (CR)
- Jeffrey Burton Russell, *Inventing the flat earth: Columbus and modern historians* (1991), selections (CR)
- Valerie I. J. Flint, "Travel fact and travel fiction in the voyages of Columbus," in *Travel fact and travel fiction*, ed. by Z. R. W. M. von Martels (1994), 94-110 (CR)

EXERCISE: Analyzing secondary sources

GUIDE: Rael, 2.a. "How to Read a Secondary Source" and 2.c. "'Predatory' Reading" ([link](#))(3) Feb 6: Navigating the Casa de Contratación (House of Trade)

READINGS

- Mark S. Monmonier, *Rhumb lines and map wars* (2004), selections (background reading on portolans, rhumb lines, and latitude/longitude grids) (CR)
- Alison Sandman, "Mirroring the world: sea charts, navigation, and territorial claims in sixteenth-century Spain," in *Merchants & marvels: commerce, science, and art in early modern Europe*, ed. by Pamela H. Smith and Paula Findlen (2002), 83-108 (CR)
- VIEW a page from the "Vallard Atlas" ([link](#))

EXERCISE: Integrating primary and secondary sources

GUIDE: Rael, 2.d. "Some Keys to Good Reading" and 3.a. "Argument Concepts" ([link](#))

For an example of how to apply these guidelines for analyzing secondary sources, you can look at Rael, 3.b. "Analysing Arguments"

GROUP A: Vespucci

- Amerigo Vespucci, *Mundus novus* and decree confirming Vespucci's appointment as Pilot Major, in *Letters from a new world: Amerigo Vespucci's discovery of America*, trans. by David Jacobson, ed. by Luciano Formisano (1992), selections (CR)
- *Literature of travel and exploration: an encyclopedia* (2003), s.v. "Amerigo Vespucci" (CR)

GROUP B: Gutiérrez

- VIEW Diego Gutiérrez, *Americae sive qvartae orbis partis nova et exactissima descriptio*. Map. [Antwerp : s.n.], 1562. From the Library of Congress, *Rosenwald Collection*. ([link](#))
- John R. Hébert, *The 1562 map of America by Diego Gutiérrez*. Special presentation. From the Library of Congress, *Map Collections, Discovery and Exploration*. (CR, [link](#))
- *Tooley's Dictionary of mapmakers*, rev. ed. (1999), s.v. "Gutiérrez" (CR)

(4) Feb 13: Hariot's Virginia in 1588**READINGS**

- Thomas Hariot, *A briefe and true report of the new found land of Virginia*, London: [By R. Robinson], 1588. Electronic edition by Paul Royster, 2007. From the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, *Electronic Texts in American Studies*. (CR, [link to download](#))
- David B. Quinn, "Thomas Harriot and the problem of America," in *Thomas Harriot: an Elizabethan man of science*, ed. by Robert Fox (2000), 9-27 (background) (CR)

EXERCISE: Reading a primary source

GUIDE: Rael, 2.b. "How to Read a Primary Source" ([link](#))

(5) Feb 20: Hariot's Virginia in 1589 and 1590

EXERCISE: Comparing primary sources

GUIDE: Rael, 2.b. "How to Read a Primary Source" ([link](#))

GROUP A: Hariot's *Virginia* in 1589

- David Harris Sacks, "Richard Hakluyt's navigations in time: history, epic, and empire," *Modern language quarterly* 67, no. 1 (2006): 31-62 (CR)
- Richard Hakluyt, *The principall nauigations, voiaiges and discoveries of the English nation*, London: By George Bishop and Ralph Newberie, 1589, excerpts (CR, [link to download](#))
- VIEW Hakluyt, *The principall nauigations* (1589), p. 759 ([link](#))

GROUP B: Hariot's *Virginia* in 1590

- Andrew Hadfield, "Thomas Harriot and John White: ethnography and ideology in the New World," in *The arts of 17th-century science*, ed. Claire Jowitt & Diane Watt (2002), 199-216 (CR)
- Thomas Hariot, *A briefe and true report of the new found land of Virginia*, Frankfurt am Main: sumtibus vero Theodori de Bry, 1590, excerpts (CR, [link to download](#) – v. large file)
- VIEW Hariot, *A briefe and true report* (1590), engravings ([link](#))

(6) Feb 27: Mapping new worlds (Virginia and New England)**READINGS**

- J.B. Harley, *The new nature of maps*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001, chap. 1, "Text and contexts in the interpretation of early maps" (pp. 33-49) (CR)
- John Smith, *A map of Virginia*, Oxford: Printed by Joseph Barnes, 1612, excerpts (CR, [link to download](#)) + map ([link](#))
- John Smith, *A description of New England*, London: Printed by Humfrey Lownes, for Robert Clerke, 1616; electronic edition by Paul Royster (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2006) (CR, [link to download](#)) + map ([link](#))
- VIEW Smith, *The generall historie of Virginia, New England...* (1624), title page ([link](#))

EXERCISE: Reading maps

GROUP A: Virginia

- Edward Williams, *Virginia, more especially the south part thereof*, London: Printed by T.H. for John Stephenson..., 1650, excerpts (CR, [link to download](#))
- VIEW "A mapp of Virginia" by John Farrer (1590-1657) published in Williams' book, later amended by his daughter, Virginia Farrer (1620-1688), 1667 ([link to download](#))

GROUP B: New England

- William Hubbard, *The present state of New-England*, London: Printed for Tho. Parkhurst ..., 1677, excerpts (CR, [link to download](#))
- VIEW "A map of New-England" by John Foster (1648-1681) published in Hubbard's book ([link](#))

- (7) March 5: **Library exercise**
 - (8) March 12: **Library workshop (location TBA)**
Prospectus paragraph + annotated bibliography due in **individual meetings** this week
 - March 19: **spring break**
 - (9) March 26: **Circulation/Projection** (readings TBA)
 - (10) April 2: in-class **presentations**: Thesis paragraph + revised annotated bibliography
Presenters: copies of your draft paper are due to peer reviewers on April 16.
 - (11) April 9: in-class **presentations**: Thesis paragraph + revised annotated bibliography
Presenters: copies of your draft paper are due to peer reviewers on April 23.
 - (12) April 16: no class meeting
 - (13) April 23: in-class **peer review**: Draft papers by April 2 presenters
 - (14) April 30: in-class **peer review**: Draft papers by April 9 presenters
 - (15) May 7: final thoughts on the Columbian exchange (coffee, cocoa, pineapple pizza?)
- Final revision of research paper due by 2:00pm, May 13 (Tuesday)

Course Content

 [compile for printing](#)

Jan 23: introductions + syllabus

1. [Syllabus](#)
2. [GUIDE: Rael, Reading, writing, and researching for history](#)

Jan 30: Columbus, cosmography, and historical contexts

1. [GUIDE: Rael, Reading, writing, and researching for history](#)

Feb 6: Navigating the Casa de Contratación (House of Trade)

1. [VIEW: The Vallard Atlas, f. 9, North America, east coast](#)
2. [GUIDE: Rael, Reading, writing, and researching for history](#)

GROUP B: Gutiérrez

1. [VIEW: Diego Gutiérrez's 1562 map](#)
2. [CR: Hébert on Diego Gutiérrez's 1562 map](#)

Feb 13: Hariot's Virginia in 1588

1. [CR: Hariot, A briefe and true report \(1588\)](#)
2. [GUIDE: Rael, Reading, writing, and researching for history](#)

Feb 20: Hariot's Virginia in 1589 and 1590

1. [GUIDE: Rael, Reading, writing, and researching for history](#)

GROUP A: Hariot's Virginia in 1589

1. [CR: Hakluyt, The principall nauigations \(1589\), excerpts](#)
2. [VIEW: Hakluyt, The principall nauigations \(1589\), p. 759](#)

GROUP B: Hariot's Virginia in 1590

1. [CR: Hariot, A briefe and true report \(1590\), excerpts](#)
2. [VIEW: Hariot, A briefe and true report \(1590\), engravings](#)

Feb 27: Mapping new worlds (Virginia and New England)

1. [CR: Smith, A map of Virginia \(1612\), excerpts](#)
2. [VIEW: Smith's map of Virginia](#)
3. [CR: Smith, A description of New England \(1616\)](#)
4. [VIEW: Smith's map of New England](#)
5. [VIEW: Smith, The generall historie... \(1624\), title page](#)

GROUP A

1. [CR: Williams, Virginia, more especially... \(1650\), excerpts](#)
2. [VIEW: Farrer's "A mapp of Virginia" \(1667\)](#)

GROUP B

1. [CR: Hubbard, The present state of New-England \(1677\), excerpts](#)
2. [VIEW: Foster's "A map of New-England" \(1677\)](#)

Research Progress

- A checklist to help you organize and stay on top of your research paper.

Develop a topic of interest

- Develop a thesis

Moving from a general topic of interest to a specific thesis for a research

- <https://uwmad.courses.wisconsin.edu/d2l/tools/checklist/checklist.asp?ou=647679&ci=548...> 1/23/2008

☐ **Presentations: Thesis para + revised biblio**

Due: Apr 2, 2008

Present your thesis paragraph + revised annotated bibliography in class April 9.

Draft your research paper

☐ **Use your thesis paragraph to develop a "road map" for the argument you make in your research paper**

Review Rael, 5.c. "The Thesis."

☐ **Sketch an outline for your paper**

Read Rael, 5.a. "Structuring your essay" and 5.b. "The three parts of a paper."

☐ **Arrange your notes in the order of your outline**☐ **Write a first draft**

Read Rael, 7.a. "Presenting Primary Sources" and click on "Links" for Quoting and Paraphrasing Sources.

☐ **Format your footnotes in Chicago/Turabian Style**

Click on "Links" for guides to Citing References Chicago/Turabian Style and Electronic Sources.

☐ **Copies of your draft paper due to peer reviewers**

Due: Apr 16, 2008

April 2 presenters: draft paper due to peer reviewers on April 16.

April 9 presenters: draft paper due to peer reviewers on April 23.

Write final draft of your research paper

☐ **Self-review of draft paper: make a 'reverse outline'**

Does the draft you've written follow your outline, or have you ended with a rather different argument? Decide whether your draft or your outline require revision.

Click on "Links" for a guide to Reverse Outlining.

☐ **Peer review of draft papers**

Due: Apr 23, 2008

April 2 presenters: your papers will be reviewed on April 23.

April 9 presenters: your papers will be reviewed on April 30.

Use Rael, 8.b. "Peer Evaluations" and/or click on "Links" for a guide to Peer Reviews.

☐ **Revise your draft**

Use both your own self-review as well as the peer reviews of your draft.

☐ **Check your final draft for writing + organization**

Use Rael's 8.a. "Paper-Writing Checklist."

☐ **Check your final draft for grammar + style**

See Rael, 6.a. "Grammar for historians" and click on "Links" for 12 Common Errors: An Editing Checklist.

☐ **Create your final "Selected Bibliography"**

This should list all works consulted for your research paper. See the guide to making a "Works Cited" page in Chicago/Turabian format.

☐ **Final revision of research paper due by 2:00pm**

Due: May 13, 2008