

**COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS IN NORTH AMERICA**

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Course Times and Location: M, W, F 1:05-2:15 p.m., Noyce Science Center 1245  
Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4, Friday 2-3, and by appointment

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**Course Description**

This course examines Spanish, French, and British encounters with the native peoples of North America between the late fifteenth and early nineteenth centuries. We will ask comparative questions, including (1) What common attitudes and behaviors marked the European colonizers? (2) How did the colonial empires differ in their reactions to, and actions toward the native peoples? (3) What was the range of native responses to the different European empires and their colonists?

For the first part of the course, we will read a common set of scholarly articles and books to introduce you to the approaches that recent historians have employed to address the above three questions. The second part of the course will be devoted to your independent research and writing.

This course works from the assumption that writers of history are made, not born. The most important skill to hone is that of being organized. We will explicitly address the issue of organizing a significant research and writing project. Not only will we discuss it, but the course is designed to provide you with practice in implementing a long-term research plan that facilitates your ability to make progress at a moderate pace.

**Evaluation**

Participation

In general, you will conduct the class sessions. My role will be to simply facilitate the discussions. You should come to our class meetings prepared to discuss all of the

assigned readings. For each class, you should bring at least 3 questions or observations about the reading for the rest of the seminar to consider.

In addition to evaluating your engagement with the assigned readings, I will also evaluate your ability to comment on the work-in-progress of your classmates.

### Research Paper (20-25 pages)

- 1) Weekly Research Journal Entries (due every Thursday, between January 31 and April 24)
- 2) Weekly Writing Schedule due January 31
- 3) Preliminary statement of topic, research question, and approach due February 6
- 4) Project Timetable due February 8
- 5) Bibliography (including primary sources) due February 15
- 6) Oral Report of Primary Source Findings due March 4
- 7) Paper Proposal due March 6
- 8) Full Draft due April 29
- 9) Final Paper due May 12

### Grading

Participation	50%
Research Paper	50%
Total	100%

I will not grade each individual component of the research paper. However, you must submit each assignment. Students who do not complete the nine research paper assignments will fail the course. This means that even if you submit an A quality final paper, if you failed to hand in one of the other assignments you will not pass the course.

### **Required Books**

Alan Taylor, American Colonies  
Eviatar Zerubavel, The Clockwork Muse  
Alfred Crosby, Ecological Imperialism  
Inga Clendinnen, Ambivalent Conquests  
Richard White, The Middle Ground  
Jill Lepore, The Name of War

### **Semester Schedule**

Tuesday, January 22:

Reading: Alan Taylor, American Colonies, "Introduction"

Thursday, January 24:

Reading:

- 1) A. Taylor, American Colonies, Ch. 1-5
- 2) Steve Stern, "Paradigms of Conquest: History, Historiography, and Politics," Journal of Latin American Studies, Vol. 24 (1992), 1-34. (JSTOR)
- 3) Patrick Rael, Reading, Writing, and Researching for History, Ch. 1-4 (<http://academic.bowdoin.edu/WritingGuides/>)

Discuss: Stern and Rael

Tuesday, January 29:

Reading:

- 1) A. Taylor, American Colonies, Ch. 6-12
- 2) Zerubavel, The Clockwork Muse, Ch. 1-3
- 3) Jon F. Sensbach, "Charting a Course in Early African-American History," The William and Mary Quarterly 3<sup>rd</sup> Ser., Vol. 50, No. 2 (April 1993), 394-405. (JSTOR)

Discuss: Zerubavel and Sensbach

Thursday, January 31:

Reading:

- 1) A. Taylor, American Colonies, Ch. 13-19
- 2) Zerubavel, The Clockwork Muse, Ch. 4-5

Discuss: Taylor and Zerubavel

**Weekly Writing Schedule Due in Class**

Tuesday, February 5:

Reading:

- 1) Alfred Crosby, Ecological Imperialism, Ch. 1-6
- 2) Kathleen M. Brown, "Beyond the Great Debates: Gender and Race in Early America," Reviews in American History, Vol. 26, No. 1 (1998), 96-123. (PROJECT MUSE)

Discuss: Brown

Wednesday, February 6

**Due: Preliminary statement of potential topic, research question, and approach, 5 p.m., 312 Mears**

Thursday, February 7:

Reading: A. Crosby, Ecological Imperialism, Ch. 7-Appendix

Discuss: Crosby

Friday, February 8:

**Due: Project Timetable, 5 p.m., 312 Mears**

Tuesday, February 12:

Reading:

- 1) Inga Clendinnen, Ambivalent Conquests, Ch. 1-8
- 2) Daniel H. Usner, Jr., "The Frontier Exchange Economy of the Lower Mississippi Valley in the Eighteenth Century," William and Mary Quarterly 3<sup>rd</sup> Ser., Vol. 44, No. 2 (April 1987), 165-192. (JSTOR)

Thursday, February 14: I. Clendinnen, Ambivalent Conquests, Ch. 9-Appendix

Friday, February 15:

**Due: Bibliography (including identification of potential primary sources), 5 p.m., 312 Mears**

Tuesday, February 19: Richard White, The Middle Ground, Ch. 1-3

Thursday, February 21: R. White, The Middle Ground, Ch. 3-6

Tuesday, February 26: Jill Lepore, Name of War, Introduction-

Thursday, February 28: J. Lepore, Name of War, Ch.

Tuesday, March 4:

**Due: Oral report primary source findings**

Thursday, March 6: Work individually on paper proposal

**Due: Paper Proposal, 5 P.M., 312 MEARS**

Tuesday, March 11: Discussion of paper proposals.

Thursday, March 13: Discussion of paper proposals.

SPRING BREAK! (March 15-30)

April 1 – April 24: Individual research, writing, and consultations

**TUESDAY, APRIL 29: FULL DRAFT OF PAPER DUE, 5 P.M., 312 MEARS**

Thursday, May 1: Presentations I

Tuesday, May 6: Presentations II

Thursday, May 8: Presentations III

**Monday, May 12: FINAL PAPER DUE (WITH REVISIONS), 5 P.M., 312 MEARS**