

History 105: Cultural Encounters in History
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:00-11:50
Spring 2009

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Office hours: MW 3:00-4:00,
TTh 9:00-11:00
(or by appointment)

Course description

History 105 covers a broad theme from world history: the interaction of different cultures through such means as war, trade, religious proselytizing, and enslavement. In particular, the course will look at five different cultural encounters, ranging from the Spanish conquest of the New World to the creation of South Africa's *apartheid* regime and covering moments from the early modern period to the present day.

History 105 will have several objectives. First, and most obviously, it will help students to understand each of the cultural encounters it discusses—analyzing the factors that resulted in the rise of the Atlantic slave trade and in collapse of Yugoslavia, for example. Second, it will seek to cast light on a broad array of historical concepts, such as “culture” and “agency,” while examining how different historical forces—like race and economics—have shaped events at different moments in the past. Finally, the course will serve as an introduction to historical methodology, helping students to analyze primary documents and to construct an effective historical argument. We will pursue these objectives through the intensive reading of both primary sources and secondary texts, including important documents from history and the works of major scholars of the present day.

Course materials

The following books are available for sale at the college bookstore and are on course reserve at Burling Library:

Stuart B. Schwartz, ed., *Victors and Vanquished: Spanish and Nahua Views of the Conquest of Mexico*
Bartolome de las Casas, *A Brief Account of the Devastation of the Indies*
John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800*
Timothy Judah, *The Serbs*
Nancy Clark and William Worger, *South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid*
Mark Mathabane, *Kaffir Boy*
Rian Malan, *My Traitor's Heart*

In addition, a number of readings (both articles and primary sources) will be available on the course's Pioneerweb site. These readings are listed with the heading “[Pioneerweb]” on the syllabus.

Requirements and grading

The course will have four requirements, which will be weighted as follows in determining your grade:

Three papers of 4-5 pages each (40% of your total grade). Each of the three papers will be an analysis of some of the readings we have covered in class; I will hand out an assignment sheet for each paper roughly 10 days before it is due. The first paper will be due on Thursday, February 19, at 5:00 PM (at my office); the second will be due at 5:00 on Thursday, April 9 (at my office); the third will be due on Friday, May 8 (in class).

Mid-Term Exam (15%). The mid-term exam will be held in class on Monday, March 2. It will cover material from the course's first two units and will have two sections: an identification section (in which students will explain the significance of a series of people, places, things, or concepts from the course in 3-4 sentences each) and an essay section (in which students will answer one of two essay questions offered to them.)

Final exam (25%). The final exam will be a three-hour sit-down test held at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, May 13. It will have a similar format to the mid-term: an identification section (based only on the second half of the course) and two essay sections (one focusing on the second half of the course, and the other focusing on themes from the entire class.)

Class participation (20%). The final requirement for this course is active and informed participation in classroom discussions. I will base this part of your grade on several criteria, including attendance, frequency of participation, and the insightfulness of your classroom comments; although I hope that everyone will participate regularly, note that the insightfulness of your comments is more important than the frequency of your participation.

NOTE: In addition to the requirements listed above, I reserve the right to fail (or to further lower the grade of) any student with more than six unexcused absences. If your grade seems likely to suffer significantly from your absences or your lack of participation, I will let you know early enough that you have time to correct the problem. If you have any concerns about your level of participation, feel free to contact me at any time and we can discuss ways to increase your involvement in discussion.

Important notes

Grinnell College makes reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students need to provide documentation identifying any special needs to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, whose office is located on the third floor of the Rosenfield Center. Students should then notify me within the first few days of class.

Students should also be aware of Grinnell's policy on academic honesty. Plagiarism, it goes without saying, will not be tolerated in this course.

Course Schedule

Encounter 1: The Spanish Conquest of the Americas

Monday, January 19: Course Introduction and Goals

Reading: “Letter of Christopher Columbus” [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, January 21: The Objectives of the Spanish Crown

Reading: “Instructions for the Government of the Indies” [Pioneerweb]
“Decree on Indian Labor” [Pioneerweb]

Friday, January 23: The Church and the Crown in the Spanish Colonies

Reading: The Advent Sermon of Fray Antonio Montesinos [Pioneerweb]
Royal Response to the Sermons [Pioneerweb]
Palacios Rubios, “The Requirement” [Pioneerweb]
The Laws of Burgos [Pioneerweb]
The General Repartimiento of 1514 [Pioneerweb]

Monday, January 26: The Players in the Conquest of Mexico

Reading: Stuart B. Schwartz, ed., *Victors and Vanquished: Spanish and Nahua Views of the Conquest of Mexico*, pp. 1-40

Wednesday, January 28: Cortes and Colonial Politics

Reading: *Victors and Vanquished*, pp. 41-99

Friday, January 30: Cortes’s Plan

Reading: *Victors and Vanquished*, pp. 100-181

Monday, February 2: The Course of Conquest

Reading: *Victors and Vanquished*, pp. 182-243

Wednesday, February 4: An Overall Pattern of Conquest?

Reading: Bartolome de las Casas, *A Brief Account of the Devastation of the Indies* (entire)

Friday, February 6: The Crown’s Response to Las Casas

Reading: The New Laws of the Indies [Pioneerweb]

Monday, February 9: The Winners and Losers in the Spanish New World

Reading: Lopez de Gomora, "The Viceroy Announces the New Laws" [Pioneerweb]
Pizarro, "Letter to Pedro de Valdivia." [Pioneerweb]
Garcilaso de la Vega, "The Death of Pizarro" [Pioneerweb]

Encounter Two: The African Slave Trade and the Atlantic World

Wednesday, February 11: The Origins of the Atlantic Slave Trade

Reading: Herbert Klein, "American Labor Demand" [Pioneerweb]

Friday, February 13: The World of the Slave Trade

Reading: Documents on the slave trade [Pioneerweb]:
Job Ben Solomon, pp. 1-9
John Barbot's "Description of Guinea," pp. 21-29
"Voyage of John Atkins to Guinea", pp. 31-37
William Snelgrave's "Account of Guinea", pp. 38-43
"Voyage of John Hawkins," pp. 51-52
tables on the slave trade, p. 56

Monday, February 16: Slave Ships and Slave Captains: A Modern View

Reading: Marcus Rediker, "The Evolution of the Slave Ship" and "The Captain's Own Hell" [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, February 18: Africans in the Slave Trade

Reading: John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World*, introduction and ch. 1-2

Thursday, February 19: **FIRST PAPER IS DUE**

Friday, February 20: The Internal Slave Trade within Africa

Reading: Thornton, *Africa and Africans*, ch. 3-4

Monday, February 23: African Slaves Respond to the Trade

Reading: Thornton, *Africa and Africans*, ch. 5-6

Wednesday, February 25: Religion and Resistance in Africa and the Americas

Reading: Thornton, *Africa and Africans*, ch. 9-10

Friday, February 27: Slaves and Sailors in the Atlantic World

Reading: Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, "The Many-Headed Hydra" [Pioneerweb]

Monday, March 2: **MID-TERM EXAM**

Encounter Three: Captain Cook and the South Pacific

Wednesday, March 4: Captain Cook and his Journey to Tahiti

Reading: Anne Salmond, *The Trial of the Cannibal Dog*, pp. 1-34 [Pioneerweb]

Friday, March 6: A Tahitian at the Opera

Reading: Salmond, pp. 293-318 [Pioneerweb]

Monday, March 9: The Death of an Explorer

Reading: accounts of the death of Captain Cook by King and Samwell [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, March 11: The Death of a God?

Reading: Marshall Sahlins, *Islands of History*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]
Gannath Obeyesekere, *The Apotheosis of Captain Cook*, 3-22, 177-186
[Pioneerweb]

Friday, March 13: Cook's End

Reading: Salmond, pp. 386-416

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 16-27

Monday, March 30: The Social History of the British Navy

Reading: Scott Ashley, "How Navigators Think" [Pioneerweb]

Encounter Four: Nationalism in Yugoslavia

Wednesday, April 1: The Historical Theory of Nationalism

Reading: Eric Hobsbawm, *Nations and Nationalisms since 1780*, excerpts
[Pioneerweb]

Friday, April 3: The Origins of the Serbian Nation

Reading: Tim Judah, *The Serbs*, pp. 1-47

Monday, April 6: The Origins of Serbian Nationalism

Reading: Judah, pp. 48-112

Wednesday, April 8: A New Yugoslavia?

Reading: Judah, pp. 113-167

Thursday, April 9: **SECOND PAPER IS DUE**

Friday, April 10: The Fall of Yugoslavia

Reading: Slobodan Milosevic's Kosovo address [Pioneerweb]
Judah, pp. 168-203

Monday, April 13: The End of the Story

Reading: Judah, excerpts of the remaining chapters

Wednesday, April 15: The Modernity of Ethnic Cleansing?

Reading: Norman Naimark, *Fires of Hatred: Ethnic Cleansing in Twentieth-Century Europe*, pp. 139-199 [Pioneerweb]

Encounter Five: South Africa

Friday, April 17: The Origins of Apartheid

Reading: Nancy Clark and William Worger, *South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid*, pp. 1-61

Monday, April 20: Growing Up White in South Africa

Reading: Bryce Courtenay, *The Power of One*, pp. 19-51 [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, April 22: Growing Up Black in South Africa

Reading: Mark Mathabane, *Kaffir Boy*, introduction through p. 62.

Friday, April 24: Black South Africans and Regime Values

Reading: Mathabane, *Kaffir Boy*, pp. 86-141

Monday, April 27: Did the System Work?

Reading: Mathabane, *Kaffir Boy*, pp. 170-204, 216-223, 249-271, 328-335

Wednesday, April 29: One Family's Place in South African History

Reading: Rian Malan, *My Traitor's Heart*, pp. 5-81

Friday, May 1: The Crimes of the Past

Reading: Malan, *My Traitor's Heart*, pp. 148-191

Monday, May 4: Could the Wounds of Apartheid be Healed?

Reading: Malan, *My Traitor's Heart*, pp. 283-349

Wednesday, May 6: The End of Apartheid

Reading: Clark and Worger, pp. 62-120

Friday, May 8: Justice and Reconciliation?

Screening: "Facing the Truth" (viewing time to be determined)

FINAL PAPER IS DUE IN CLASS

Wednesday, May 13: **FINAL EXAM**, 2:00 PM in our regular classroom