

HIST 521: COLONIAL AMERICA

*"...To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born
is to remain always a child."
Marcus Tullius Cicero*

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will study the peoples, societies, cultures, and conflicts that gave Colonial America (1500 – 1763) a distinctive history. Overall, we will progress somewhat chronologically but the course is mostly organized around several larger themes and topics. We will begin by studying the Spanish and French colonial endeavors before looking at the English colonies in North America and several of their social groups. Next, we will learn about the Natives' reaction to the European invasions of the Americas. Following, we will analyze the worlds of unfree labor in the larger Atlantic world of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Finally, we will examine the imperial crisis that led to the outbreak of the Seven Years' War in 1754, often also called the French and Indian War. This conflict between France and Britain ultimately stretched around the globe and had immense consequences for American and U.S. history to this day.

This course is designed as a seminar with frequent discussions but also several lectures. Over the course of this semester, you will have to do some challenging reading and intensive writing. Assignments in this course are designed to complement lectures, develop your reading skills, and improve your writing and problem-solving abilities.

Alan Taylor's *American Colonies* (see Required Readings) will serve as our textbook. All students are encouraged to read more than just those chapters that are explicitly assigned (see Weekly Schedule). This way, you will gain an overall understanding of the course of events, particularly if you did not take Hist 211 (American History I) in the past.

2. ROOM AND TIME

Time: 5.30pm – 8pm

Days: W

Room: Gottschalk Hall 303

3. OFFICE HOURS

MW: 1pm – 2pm or by appointment

Room: Gottschalk Hall 102C

4. BLACKBOARD AND EMAIL

Make sure to check the course's Blackboard page (<http://blackboard.louisville.edu/>) to receive messages, learn about changes, download review sheets and PowerPoint presentation, or find additional course material. Use your university email account to send emails to the instructor. Because of the high volume of spam, the University of Louisville blocks most other email systems such as Yahoo or Hotmail.

5. REQUIRED TEXTS

Available for sale at the Bookstore. Also available on course reserve. See the Weekly Schedule below.

ANDERSON, Fred. *The War That Made America*. Viking, 2005.

GREER, Allan. *The People of New France*. Paperback ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1997.

HARMS, Robert W. *The Diligent: A Voyage Through the Worlds of the Slave Trade*. Basic Books, 2001.

RESTALL, Matthew. *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

RICHTER, Daniel K. *Facing East From Indian County: A Native History of Early America*. Paperback/New ed. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003.

TAYLOR, Alan. *American Colonies*. Paperback ed. Penguin Press, 2002.

ULRICH, Laurel Thatcher. *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England, 1650 - 1750*. New York: Vintage, 1991.

BERLIN, Ira, *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*. Paperback ed. Belknap Press, 2000.

6. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING – UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

I. Final Paper	60p
II. Quizzes (4)	40p
III. Response Papers (2)	30p
IV. Class Participation	20p
Total:	150p

7. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING – GRADUATE STUDENTS

I. Final Paper	60p
II. Quizzes (4)	40p
III. Book Reviews (2)	30p
IV. Response Papers (2)	30p
V. Class Participation	20p
Total:	180p

8. GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	Percentage
A+	100 – 97
A	<97 – 94
A-	<94 – 90
B+	<90 – 87
B	<87 – 84
B-	<84 – 80
C+	<80 – 77
C	<77 – 74
C-	<74 – 70
D+	<70 – 67
D	<67 – 64
D-	<64 – 60
F	<60

9. IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plagiarism: Students must not plagiarize, which is the use of primary or secondary materials without proper citation in the footnotes, endnotes, or in the work. Plagiarism is theft of intellectual property and results in the immediate failure of the assignment and/or worse. For further discussion and definitions of plagiarism and its penalties, see <http://louisville.edu/a-s/history/plagiarism.html>. All students must consult these statements and are hereby given due notice of this History Department policy. If the instructor should find out about a case of plagiarism in this course, the student will always fail the entire course, not just the assignment and will also be reported to the Dean of the College. All students have the right to appeal these decisions.

Disability clause: All students with a disability who require special accommodations to participate in and complete this course must contact the Disability Resource center (852-6938) for verification of eligibility and for determination of specific accommodations.

Due dates: All assignments are due on the dates given in the syllabus (see Weekly Schedule). The instructor will not accept any late assignments without a valid reason (illness, etc.) and documentary proof (a note from the physician, etc.) presented within two workdays of the test or due date. See the instructor before an assignment in case you anticipate problems.

10. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

FINAL PAPER: You will write a seminar paper (10 – 12 pages; 12p Times New Roman; 1" margins on top, bottom, left; 1.5" margins on right; footnotes, endnotes, bibliography; no in-text citations allowed) on a topic developed on your own, following a consultation with the instructor. You will utilize secondary sources and primary documents (if possible) for this paper. It will show that you have analyzed the topic, collected and sorted through useful information and readings, and developed a coherent thesis or argument. In the last session of this course, each student will give a brief oral presentation (5 minutes) about her/his project.

QUIZZES: The quizzes will test you about reading assignments and other course material (see Weekly Schedule). Most questions require only short answers or brief essays. The instructor reserves the right to give additional, unannounced quizzes.

RESPONSE PAPERS: For two readings (see Weekly Schedule) you are required to compose response papers (2 pages; 12p Times New Roman; 1" margins on top, bottom, left; 1.5" margins on right; in-text citations of page numbers required). These consist of brief essays written in response to one or more questions about the readings at hand.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: You will be asked to attend and participate in all classes, prepare the readings, and contribute to class discussions and activities. You are expected to be on time and to conduct yourself with decorum and courtesy in the classroom. Telephones, pagers, and any other electronic devices that ring, beep, clang, or buzz must be turned off during class. Each week, two students (rotating) are required to formulate one or more questions about the readings, topics, or lectures at hand that they would like to discuss in class.

BOOK REVIEWS (GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY): You will write two analytical, comparative book reviews (3 – 5 pages, 12p Times New Roman; 1" margins on top, bottom, left; 1.5" margins on right; footnotes; no in-text citations allowed) of two or more related readings concerning topics studied in this course. You will choose your own books and topics upon consultation with the instructor. At least one of the books cannot be a required reading for the course. The books should be related in terms of topics, methodologies, or sources. The reviews should provide an overview of the contents

of both readings as well as an engaged and informed discussion of the validity of the authors' theses and arguments. Following a consultation with the instructor, comparative reviews of movies, analyses of paintings, discussions of other works of art concerning our topic are possible.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary.

11. REVIEW SHEETS

For some sessions, review sheets are available for download on the course's Blackboard page (<http://blackboard.louisville.edu/>). Review sheets contain a list of items (events, ideas, developments, persons, places, etc.) that will be covered that day. Certain names, places, dates, and events will be highlighted to signify their importance.

12. HELPFUL ADDITIONAL LITERATURE

Alan Taylor's *American Colonies* offers numerous recommendations for additional readings on all kinds of topics. This book and the author's recommendations should also be the starting place for all students when researching their final paper and for graduate students in particular when writing their comparative reviews.

13. WEEKLY SCHEDULE

"L" stands for lecture only; "L-D" stands for a mix of lecture and discussion; "D" stands for discussion only.

Week 1: 08/26

Introduction & North America before the European Invasions (L)	No Readings (but start Taylor/Restall)
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Week 2: 09/02

Spanish Conquests (L-D) 1st Quiz	Taylor, Ch. 3 Restall, <i>Seven Myths</i> , Ch. 1, 3, 6, 7
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Week 3: 09/09

Along the Saint Lawrence River (L-D)	Taylor, Ch. 5 Greer, <i>The People of New France</i> , entire
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Week 4: 09/16

English Colonies in North America (L)	Taylor, Ch. 6 – 9
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Week 5: 09/23

New England Women (D) 2nd Quiz	Ulrich, <i>Good Wives</i> , entire
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Week 6: 09/30

Native Peoples in a Colonial World (L-D)	Richter, <i>Facing East</i> , Ch. 1 – 4
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Week 7: 10/07

Native Peoples in an Imperial World (L-D) 3rd Quiz	Taylor, Ch. 13 Richter, <i>Facing East</i> , Ch. 5 & 6, Epilogue
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Week 8: 10/14

The Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World (L)
1st Comparative Review (Grad Students)

No Readings (but start Harms)

Week 9: 10/21

Slave Trading – Africa (L-D)

Harms, *The Diligent*, Part 1 – 8

Week 10: 10/28

Slave Trading – America (L-D)
1st Response Paper

Harms, *The Diligent*, Part 9 – 12

Week 11: 11/04

Slavery in North America (L-D)
4th Quiz

Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone*, Part I and II

Week 12: 11/11

English Colonies in the Eighteenth Century (L)
2nd Comparative Review (Grad Students)

No Readings (but start Anderson)

Week 13: 11/18

Seven Years' War (L-D)
2nd Response Paper

Anderson, *War That Made America*, entire

Week 14: 11/25

Thanksgiving

No Class

Week 15: 12/02

Beyond 1763 (L)
Final Paper

No Readings

14. IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

08-24: First Day of Class

10-15: Last Day to Withdraw

11-25: Thanksgiving Break

12-07: Last Day of Class