

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

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## HIST 521/611WR: COLONIAL AMERICA

### **1. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, we will study the peoples, societies, cultures, and conflicts that gave Colonial America (ca. 1500 – 1763) a distinctive history. Overall, we will progress chronologically but the course is organized mostly 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. We will learn about the Natives' reaction to the European invasions of the Americas and analyze the worlds of unfree labor in the larger Atlantic world of the period. We will examine the imperial crisis that led to the outbreak of the Seven Years' War in 1754. This conflict between France and Britain ultimately stretched around the globe and had immense consequences for American 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* will serve as our textbook. All students are encouraged to read more than just those chapters that are explicitly assigned.

### **2. ROOM AND TIME**

Days/Time: M/W, 2 – 3.15pm

Room: Humanities 112

### **3. OFFICE HOURS**

Gottschalk Hall 102C: W, 10am - 12pm or by appointment

### **4. BLACKBOARD AND EMAIL**

Check the course's Blackboard page to receive messages, learn about changes, download review sheets and PowerPoint presentations, or find additional course material. Use your university email account to send emails to the instructor. Use the proper form, spelling, and grammar when sending messages.

### **5. REQUIRED TEXTS**

Available for sale at the Bookstore and on course reserve in the library.

ANDERSON, Fred. *The War That Made America*. Paperback ed. New York: Penguin Group, 2005.

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

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*. New York: 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 ed. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2003.

TAYLOR, Alan. *American Colonies*. Paperback ed. New York: Penguin Group, 2002.

WHITE, RICHARD. *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650 – 1815*. 21<sup>st</sup> Paperback ed. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

## **6. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING – UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

I. Final Paper	60p
II. Quizzes (4)	40p
III. Paper Proposal	15p
IV. Annotated Bibliography	15p
V. Topic	10p
VI. Class Participation	20p
Total:	<b>160p</b>

## **7. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING – GRADUATE STUDENTS**

I. Final Paper	60p
II. Quizzes (4)	40p
III. Comparative Book Reviews (2)	40p
IV. Paper Proposal	15p
V. Annotated Bibliography	15p
VI. Topic	10p
VII. Class Participation	20p
Total:	<b>200p</b>

## **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**

**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. Make-up exams for students registered with the DRC will be held at the DRC.

**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. 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 immediately fail the course, not just the assignment, and will be reported to the Dean of the College. All students have the right to appeal these decisions.

**Make-up exams:** Make-up exams will be granted only to those students who have a valid reason. Valid reasons are: an illness, a traffic accident on the way to school, school-related activities (the student is a member of a UofL sports team, band, etc.), or a death in the immediate family. Other reasons might apply but will have to be discussed with the instructor prior to the test. All students have to provide documentary proof (a note from your physician, athletic department, etc.) within two workdays (not including weekends) after the test to determine the validity of the absence and be granted a make-up test.

## **10. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**FINAL PAPER:** You will write a seminar paper (15 – 20 pages; double-spaced; 12p Times New Roman; 1" margins on top, bottom, left; 1.5" margins on right; footnotes/endnotes in Chicago/Turabian style, bibliography in Chicago/Turabian style; no in-text citations; title page; page numbers; subtitles if useful; table of contents if useful) on a topic developed on your own, following a consultation with the instructor. You will utilize secondary sources and primary sources (if possible) for this paper. This paper will show that you have analyzed the topic, collected and sorted through useful information and readings, and developed a coherent thesis or argument. Each paper has to be proofread by at least one other student in this class. This student has to be listed on the title page.

**QUIZZES:** The quizzes are unannounced and 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.

**PAPER PROPOSAL:** This assignment requires students to write a two- to three-page proposal (double-spaced; 12p Times New Roman; 1" margins; no foot- or endnotes) of their research topic for the final paper. It should contain information introducing the reader to the topic and the overall thesis (*What*) as well as the major questions or problems to be discussed (*So What*). The proposal then needs to say something about sources and methodology (*How*). A guide to preparing a proposal will be made available on Blackboard.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY: Students will collect primary sources and/or secondary literature pertinent to their project. In order to decide which items are important, they will have to skim everything. This means, for instance, that they look closely at the table of content, the introduction, and conclusion of a book in order to determine whether it is important for their project or not. For this assignment, they will list at least ten items according to bibliographical standards of this course (*Turabian/Chicago*) and describe them and their importance in a brief paragraph. A guide to preparing an annotated bibliography will be made available on Blackboard.

TOPIC: Students will submit a one-page (double-spaced; 12p Times New Roman; 1" margins) description of their topic and preliminary thesis, incl. a list of current/planned primary/secondary sources. A guide to preparing the topic page will be made available on Blackboard.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Students will be asked to be present and participate in all classes, prepare the course readings, and contribute to course discussions and activities. In other words, simply sitting in class passively and raising their hand sometimes will not earn students full points in this category. Students are expected to be on time and conduct themselves with decorum and courtesy in the classroom. The instructor does not tolerate sleeping, chatting, texting, and wearing hats/hoods. Cell phones, pagers, etc. must be turned off during class and stored away. Surfing the internet or watching movies on your laptop/iPad, or other electronic devices, during class will not be tolerated. For each reading, two students (rotating) are required to formulate one or more questions 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/endnotes in Chicago/Turabian style; 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 to the syllabus when necessary or add/remove course requirements.

## **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.

## **13. WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

### Week 1: 08/20 – 08/24

M: Introduction

No Readings

W: Ancient America Before 1492

No Readings

### Week 2: 08/27 – 08/31

M: Encounters

Taylor, Ch. 3

W: Conquests

Restall, Ch. 1, 3, 6, 7

### Week 3: 09/03 – 09/07

**M: Labor Day**

**No Class**

W: Along the St. Lawrence

Greer, entire

### Week 4: 09/10 – 09/14

M: Jamestown and the Founding of Virginia

Taylor, Ch. 6

**W: New England & Topic due!**

Taylor, Ch. 8-9

### Week 5: 09/17 – 09/21

M: The West Indies

Taylor, Ch. 10

W: The Middle Colonies

Taylor, Ch. 12

### Week 6: 09/24 – 09/28

M: Native Peoples in a Colonial World

Richter, Ch. 1-4

W: Native Peoples in an Imperial World

Richter, Ch. 5-6 and Epilogue

### Week 7: 10/01 – 10/05

M: Writing a History Paper I

Handout on Blackboard

**W: Writing a History Paper II & Annotated Bibliography due!**

Handout on Blackboard

### Week 8: 10/08 – 10/12

**M: Mid-Term Break**

**No Class**

W: The Middle Ground

White, Intro & Ch. 1-4

### Week 9: 10/15 – 10/19

**M: The Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World & Paper Proposal due!**

No Readings

W: North American Slavery

Berlin, Part I and II

Week 11: 10/22 – 10/26

M: Slave Trading – Africa

W: Slave Trading – America

Harms, Part 1-8

Harms, Part 9-12

Week 12: 10/29 – 11/02

**M: Reading/Writing Week**

**W: Reading/Writing Week**

**No Class**

**No Class**

Week 13: 11/05 – 11/09

M: English Colonies in the Eighteenth Century

W: Imperial Worlds and Crises

Taylor, Ch. 14-15

Taylor, Ch. 18

Week 14: 11/12 – 11/16

M: The Outbreak of the Seven Years' War

W: Crucible of War

No Readings

Anderson, Part 1-3

Week 15: 11/19 – 11/23

M: Into the Middle Ground Again

**W: Thanksgiving Break**

White, Ch. 5-7

**No Class**

Week 16: 11/26 – 11/30

M: Unintended Consequences

**W: Reading/Writing Day**

Anderson, Part 4

**No Class**

Week 17: 12/03 – 12/07

**M: Final Paper due!**

**14. IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

Last day for drop/add: 08/24

Last day to withdraw: 10/11