Overview
This course examines the changing but always central role of the Caribbean and its people in the development of early modern European empires, as well as the intermixing of peoples that occurred in emerging Caribbean societies. We will trace the emergence of multi-ethnic societies over two hundred years, from the arrival of the first Europeans, through the age of piracy, to the consolidation of plantation economies. Special emphasis will be given to the interactions between the diverse peoples who formed these developing societies and cultures and to the power structures that shaped their unequal interactions in the context of the wider Atlantic world.

Readings
Course readings include articles and books. All articles will be on e-reserves, which is accessible via the class Blackboard site. The following books can be purchased in the UNCG bookstore (if you order them elsewhere make sure you get the same edition):

Kris Lane, *Pillaging the Empire. Piracy in the Americas, 1500-1750* (Sharpe, 1998)

Always bring a copy of the assigned reading to class.

Class Etiquette
A classroom is a communal space where we all gather for a brief period to pursue a common goal via group interactions. Electronic devices, including laptop computers, cell phones and food should only be brought to class if they will be shared by the entire group in pursuit of our collective endeavors. You are welcome to bring an individual drink.
Requirements and Grading

**Blackboard responses (20% of grade):** Students will post weekly responses to the readings via the class Blackboard site for 14 of the 17 weeks of the course. It is entirely your choice which three weeks you do not post. However, there will be no exceptions granted for any reason. Plan wisely. Postings are due by 10 pm each Tuesday. Late postings will not be counted. Students are expected to read and think about their fellow students’ postings, and to come to class prepared to continue the discussions that begin on Blackboard.

Specifications:
- Postings should be clear and to the point. Focus on a single issue or theme and state your position or argument succinctly, with relevant references to the readings. Think through your ideas before you begin writing.
- Develop the art of articulate written conversation. Use full sentences, minimal abbreviations and acronyms, and correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Proofread and edit carefully before you hit the "send" button. This is not an IM forum.
- You are encouraged to express questions, doubts, confusion, and (within reasonable limits) emotional reactions to the material and/or to the postings of your fellow students. Of course, you always will be respectful and courteous.
- Sign every posting at the bottom.

Blackboard is an important tool for this course. Check the Announcements and Course Documents regularly.

**Papers (each 20% of grade):** There are three short papers for this class, 5-7 pages each, one for each of the course units. Papers are due the Monday after the conclusion of each unit. Late papers will be accepted only in exceptional circumstances and only after prior consultation with the professor. You will receive details about the corresponding assignment at the beginning of each unit.

**Class Participation (20% of grade):** All students are expected to attend class, to have read and thought about the material, and to participate actively in discussions. Students will also be expected to give occasional in-class presentations.

Students are responsible for all the material that is discussed and handed out in class, as well as the readings and Blackboard postings. Cultivate networks among your fellow students so you can get copies of class notes, announcements, etc. if you have to miss class.
UNIT I: CONTACT AND CONQUEST

Monday, August 14: Introduction

Wednesday, August 16: The Pre-Contact Caribbean

Monday, August 21: Europe in the Late Middle Ages
Readings: Eric Wolf, “Europe: Prelude to Expansion;” Seymour Phillips, “The Outer World of the European Middle Ages” (e-reserves)

Wednesday, August 23: Iberia: Reconquest and Expansion
Reading: Miguel Angel Ladero Quesada, “Spain Circa 1492” (e-reserves)

Monday, August 28: European Explorations in the Atlantic
Readings: J. H. Parry, The Age of Reconnaissance, Chapters 1-2, and The Establishment of the European Hegemony, Chapters 1-3 (e-reserves)

Wednesday, August 30: Africans in the Emerging Atlantic World
Readings: John Thornton, Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, Chapters 1 & 2 (e-reserves)

Monday, September 4: Labor Day. No class.

Wednesday, September 6: Conquest and Demographic Disaster

Monday, September 11: The Spanish Sea

Wednesday, September 13: The Americas in the European Imagination

***** Paper 1 is due in class on Monday, September 18 *****
UNIT 2: EMERGENCE AND CONSOLIDATION OF IMPERIAL SPHERES

Monday, September 18: Religious Conflict and Changing European Geopolitics
Reading: Dunn, “Calvinism vs. Catholicism in Western Europe” (e-reserves)

Wednesday, September 20: Developing European Rivalries
Readings: Anne Pérotin-Dumon, “French, English and Dutch in the Lesser Antilles: From Privateering to Planting” (e-reserves)

Monday, September 25: The French Religious Wars and Corsairs
Reading: Lane, Pillaging the Empire, Introduction and Chapter 1

Wednesday, September 27: French Colonies
Boucher, “The Frontier Era of the French Caribbean” (e-reserves)

Monday, October 2: English Privateering
Reading: Lane, Pillaging the Empire, Chapter 2

Wednesday, October 4: English Colonies
Readings: Taylor, "The West Indies, 1600-1700" (e-reserves)

Monday, October 9: Fall break. No class.

Wednesday, October 11: The Dutch Revolt and Overseas Expansion
Reading: Lane, Pillaging the Empire, Chapter 3; P. C. Emmer, “The Dutch and the Making of the Second Atlantic System” (e-reserves)

Monday, October 16: Buccaneers and Freebooters
Reading: Lane, Pillaging the Empire Chapter 4 and Chapter 6, pp. 164-80; Curtin, Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex, Chapter 7.

Wednesday, October 18: Creolization

Monday, October 23: Comparisons
Presentations

Wednesday, October 25: Comparisons
Presentations

***** Paper 2 is due in class on Monday, October 30 *****
UNIT 3: THE PLANTATION SYSTEM

Monday, October 30: Origins of the Plantation System
Readings: Curtin, Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex, Chapters 1, 2, 4

Wednesday, November 2: Rise of the Caribbean Plantation
Readings: Curtin, Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex, Chapter 6; Dunn, Sugar and Slaves, Chapter 1.

Monday, November 7: Rise of the Atlantic Slave Trade
Readings: Curtin, Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex, Chapter 3; Newton, "The Beginnings of the African Slave Trade" (e-reserves)

Wednesday, November 9: Growth of the Atlantic Slave Trade
Palmer, "The Slave Trade, African Slavers and Demography" (e-reserves)

Monday, November 14: The Planter Class
Readings: Dunn, Sugar and Slaves, Chapters 2-5.

Wednesday, November 16: Commodities
Readings: Dunn, Sugar and Slaves, Chapter 6

Monday, November 21: Enslaved Labor
Readings: Dunn, Sugar and Slaves, Chapter 7

Wednesday, November 23: Thanksgiving Break. No class.

Monday, November 27: Life and Death in Caribbean Plantation Society
Readings: Dunn, Sugar and Slaves, Chapters 8-10

Wednesday, November 29: Beyond the Plantation
Readings: Curtin, Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex, Chapter 8

Monday, December 4: Conclusions

***** Paper 3 is due in class on Monday, December 4. *****