Atlantic World Colloquium
HIS 710
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Fall 2009

History 710.01: MHRA 3208, 6:30-9:20
Instructor: Dr. Joanna J. Kucinski
Office: MHRA 2102
Phone: (919) 530-6685
Email: jkucinski@nccu.edu
Office hours: Thursdays 3:30-6:00

Course Description: This seminar is an introduction to the concepts, approaches, and themes of field of Atlantic history between (roughly) 1400 and 1800. The Atlantic World is a useful conceptual and methodological framework for understanding the development of European empires and colonial societies and the process and impact of exchanges between the continents during the early modern period. Our goal is to examine the historiography of this field and identify significant trends, possible scholarly benefits, and limitations and weaknesses of an Atlantic approach.

Grading:

Paper 1: 20%
Paper 2: 25%
Paper and Presentation on Commodity: 25%
Final Historiographical essay: 30%

Required Texts:


Alfred Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange*, ISBN 978-0275980924 (This is an old classic; there are many editions out there--this is the latest).

Londa Schiebinger, *Plants and Empire: Colonial Bio-Prospecting* ISBN 0674025684

Susan Scott Parrish, *American Curiosity: Cultures of Natural History in the Colonial British Atlantic World* 978-0807856789

John Gillis, *Islands of the Mind: How the Human Imagination Created the Atlantic World*. (Available for Pre-order on Amazon.com)

**Readings and Topics**

August 27: Introduction

**Unit One: Identifying the terrain: Concepts, Places, and Players**

September 3: Atlantic Empires
- Green and Morgan, Introduction and Parts I and II

September 10: Approaches
- Green and Morgan, Part III
- Paper 1 Due

**Unit Two: Case Studies, Exchanging Peoples and Civilizations**

September 17: Worlds of the Slave Trade
- Harms, *The Diligent*

September 24: Building an English Empire
- Amussen, *Caribbean Exchanges*

October 1: European Perspective on Slavery
- Behn, *Oroonoko*

October 8: Inventing Slave Identity
- Equiano, *An Interesting Narrative*


October 15:


• **Paper 2 Due**

**Unit Three: Ecological Exchange**

October 22: Biological Impacts
  • Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange*

October 29: Bio-prospecting?
  • Schiebinger, *Plants and Empire*

November 5: Commodities Presentations

November 12: Commodities Presentations; **Paper 3 Due**

**Unit Four: Intellectual Exchange**

November 19: Colonial Science
  • Parrish, *American Curiosity*

Americas before and after 1492: Current Geographical Research (Sep., 1992), pp. 543-565

November 26: Thanksgiving Day (No Class)

December 3: Imagining the Atlantic
  • Gillis, Islands of the Mind
  • Final Historiographical Essay Due