

History 701:

Colloquium: United States to 1865

Fall 2012

Dr. Phyllis Hunter Office: 2119 MHRA

Office Hrs: Tues & Thurs: 3:30-4:30

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A Woman reading at the American History Room of the New York Public Library

The purpose of this colloquium is to give graduate students a knowledge of the historiographic themes and debates that structure much of the interpretation of American History up to (and in some cases beyond) 1865, to understand how historians create books, and how the profession of history works. Students will read and interpret several “classic” works of history as well as several volumes and articles representing new issues and/or methods. The class will be run as a seminar with weekly discussions on assigned readings.

Required Texts: These texts are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore

Daniel Richter, *Facing East from Indian Country* (Harvard, 2003)

April Hatfield, *Atlantic Virginia* (Penn Press, 2007)

Simon Schama, *Rough Crossings* (Harper Perennial, 2007)

John Larson & Michael Morrison, eds. *Whither the Early Republic* (Penn Press, 2005)

Clare Lyons, *Sex among the Rabble* (UNC, 2006)

Paul E. Johnson, *A Shopkeeper's Millennium* (Hill and Wang, 2004)

John Michael Vlach, *Back of the Big House* (UNC Press, 1993)

Eric Foner, *Free Soil, Free Men, Free Labor* (Oxford, 1995)

Drew Faust, *This Republic of Suffering* (Knopf, 2008)

Requirements:

Because this is a seminar, the main requirement is to come to class prepared with notes and questions about the reading that will enable you to participate fully in discussion. Students will be asked to work in pairs to present historiographic background for the readings. It is imperative that you meet with me well before your assigned weeks. There will be short writing assignments and a final historiographic paper. Needless to say, attendance is required and absences will effect your grade.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- * Students will learn key historiographic interpretations that have shaped the practice of United States History including historians' changing conceptions of race, class, and gender.
- * Students will learn the different methods used in developing historical interpretation with a focus on social and cultural history.
- * Students will learn to express their knowledge of historiography in class discussion and scholarly writing.
- * Students will begin to understand how to situate their own work within important historiographic themes or problems.
- * Students will gain experience with the key journal literature in their field.

Final Paper:

Students will write a historiographic paper that deals with at least two intersecting themes, debates, or methods encountered in the class. For the paper students must complete additional secondary reading (books, articles, review articles) to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the past work and present state of the field in their chosen topics. The paper should be about 15 pages long. Therefore one must be both complete and concise. Turning in a late paper means that you will receive an Incomplete for the course.

Grading:

Class Participation	40%
Shorter Written work	30%
Final Paper	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

Class Schedule:

Wed. August 22

Introduction and Journal Review Assignments

Wed August 29 Cultural Encounters

Richter, *Facing East*; Class Discussion and Journal Reports

Wed Sept 5 Atlantic World

Hatfield, *Atlantic Virginia*, Class Discussion.

Due: Short Paper (3-5 pages) on Atlantic History. In addition to Hatfield's book you will want to consult some journal articles and review essays on this topic. Use Chicago style foot or end notes for this and all papers in which you refer to work other than the assigned text.

Wed Sept. 12 Material Culture in Eighteenth Century America

Jules David Prown, "Mind In Matter: An Introduction To Material Culture Theory And Method" in *Winterthur Portfolio* 1982 17(1),1-19; T. H. Breen, "'Baubles of Britain': The American and Consumer Revolutions of the Eighteenth Century," *Past & Present*, No. 119 (May, 1988), 73-104; [both available on-line through Jackson Library] and Caroline Frank, *Objectifying China, Imagining America* (University of Chicago Press, 2011), "Introduction: Beyond the Atlantic in Anglo-America," and Chapter 3: Islands of Illicit Refinement," [on Blackboard]. Class Discussion

Wed Sept 19 Interpreting the Revolution

Reading TBA. Class Discussion.

Due: Short paper (2-3pg) on: Was the American Revolution Radical?

Wed Sept 26 Telling Stories and Doing History

Schama, *Rough Crossings* and at least one review of Cassandra Pybus, *Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and Their Global Quest for Liberty* (Beacon Press, 2007). Please bring copy review to class. Class Discussion.

Wed Oct 3 New Directions in the History of the Early Republic

Larson & Morrison, *Whither the Early Republic* (selections TBA) and one article of your choosing from either 2011 or 2012 volumes of the *Journal of the Early Republic*. Be prepared to give a brief report on your article. Class Discussion.

Due: Short (2-3 pg) paper on the most important new direction(s) in the history of the early Republic

Wed Oct 10 History of Sexuality

Lyons, *Sex among the Rabble*. Class Discussion

Wed Oct 17 Industrialization, Religion, and Reform

Johnson, *Shopkeeper's Millennium*. Class Discussion

Wed Oct 24 Individual Appointments

Individual appointments with Dr. Hunter on final paper topic.

Due: 1 page preliminary paper proposal and bibliography for final paper

Wed Oct 31 Understanding Slavery

Vlach, *Back of the Big House*. Class Discussion.

Due: Short (2-3 pg) review of a web site on slavery of your choosing.

Wed Nov 7 Origins of the Civil War: One Interpretation

Foner, *Free Soil, Free Men, Free Labor*. Class Discussion

Wed Nov 14 Cultural History

Faust, *This Republic of Suffering*. Class Discussion

Wed Nov 21 OFF! Thanksgiving**Wed Nov 28 Final Class**

Class Discussion and final wrap-up.

Due: Brief oral report (5-8 mins) on your final paper.

Final Papers**Wed Dec 5**

Due: Final papers in my box or folder outside my office door **by 5 PM**.

Enjoy your holiday!