HIS 710: Atlantic World Colloquium
Fall 2013

Thursdays 6:30-9:20 pm  Dr. Linda Rupert
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Office hours: Thursdays 2-4 pm and by appointment (Moore HRA 2105)

Synopsis
This course introduces students to the variety of approaches and themes that comprise one of the newest and fastest-growing fields in our discipline. The Atlantic World provides a useful conceptual and methodological framework in which to analyze the development of European empires, the creation of American colonial societies, and the emergence of trans-imperial networks in the early modern period (roughly 1400-1800) and beyond. We will read a selection of major works which have defined the field, identify different perspectives and approaches, and trace the development of the historiography. We will also consider the challenges involved in comparative, cross-cultural historical research, and the limits of an Atlantic approach.

Course Goals and Objectives
By the end of the course students should have developed significant skill in:
• recognizing a variety of interpretive approaches to Atlantic history
• analyzing historical monographs for their conceptual framework, methodological approach, and use of sources
• tracing trends and developments in the historiography
• developing their own analytic abilities, both written and oral

Required Books
Requirements
Graduate work requires active, enthusiastic participation at all levels; deep understanding of the material; engagement with classmates; and careful, timely completion of assignments. As a graduate student you should make the most of every opportunity to develop your analytic abilities and to push beyond the limits of your current knowledge.

All written work should follow rigorous standards of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and style. Clear writing showcases clear thinking. Carefully edit and proofread everything you write. Graduate students should own, and consult often, the latest edition of Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (University of Chicago Press).

For all assignments, bring a hard copy (printout) to class, and also deposit an identical copy in the electronic dropbox of the course Blackboard site.

Written and oral discussion (approximately 30% of final grade)
*Class presentations:* Each week during Unit 2 one or two students will give a brief presentation situating the assigned reading and its author in context, and frame some questions to lead our class discussion. Discussion leaders will meet with the professor the week before. It is your responsibility to schedule these meetings in a timely manner and to come to them fully prepared.

*Class participation:* Attendance; active engagement with the material; and pointed, courteous responses to your fellow students’ ideas and analysis are expected. Cultivate the art of being a thoughtful listener as well as an articulate speaker.

Short writing assignments (approximately 40% of final grade)
*Unit essays:* For each unit you will write a five to seven page analysis and comparison of the readings, drawing on and developing some of the themes we have addressed in our discussions, and critically appraising similarities in and differences between the works. The essays are due in class the week after we finish the unit.

*Book reviews:* Each week during Unit 2 one or two students will read an additional book which complements the assigned reading, and write a two to three page review for the class. Bring enough copies of the review to distribute in class (two for the professor), and a copy of the book to pass around. You will also give a brief oral presentation which summarizes the work and highlights its relevance. Each student will review two books.

Final paper (approximately 30% of final grade)
This assignment allows you will apply the cumulative course material to your own developing work and interests, supplemented by some additional, individualized readings. Here you have a choice: you may focus on either research or teaching. Each student will meet at least twice with the professor to discuss the appropriate contours of this assignment. We will discuss this in more detail during the first weeks of the course.
Schedule of Classes and Readings

Unit 1: Defining the Atlantic World


Unit 2: Analyzing the Atlantic World
September 26: Crosby, The Columbian Exchange; Unit 1 essay due.
October 3: Thornton, Africa and Africans
October 10: Lindebaugh and Rediker, The Many Headed Hydra
October 24: Sensback, Rebecca’s Revival
October 31: Hancock, Oceans of Wine
November 7: Klooster, Revolutions in the Atlantic World
November 14: Landers, Atlantic Creoles
November 21: Summation; Unit 2 essay due.

Final paper due on Wednesday, December 4.