

HIS 710-01 – Colloquium in Atlantic World
Fall 2016 – Wednesdays 3:30 - 6:20, 3209 MHRA

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Office Hours: T/W 11 am - 12 noon and by appointment
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Course Objectives: This course is designed to be an introduction to the history of the Atlantic trading system, the historiography of Atlantic World Studies, and comparative or cross-cultural approaches to original historical research. As a relatively new way of conceptualizing and framing historical questions – on a much larger geographical and temporal scale than more familiar units of analysis (e.g. a nation state or ethnic/language group) – the ‘Atlantic World’ serves also as an entry point into and example of thinking and teaching about global history.

Student Learning Outcomes –

On completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- § Explain major social and cultural effects of the intercontinental maritime trade between Europe, Africa, and the Americas;
- § Analyze major debates in the historiography of the Atlantic World;
- § Formulate historical questions and design research projects that employ cross-cultural or transnational analytical approaches.

Requirements and Grading:

This course is an intensive readings course at the graduate level. Your main requirement is to come to class fully prepared for an in-depth discussion of the assigned readings.

Attendance is required. Any absences will have a major effect on your grade. Required books are on reserve in Jackson Library and can be checked out for one week. Most of the primary source readings are available as eReserves in Canvas via the HIS 710 module.

In each class meeting we will be discussing that day’s book and that day’s primary sources. Each student will give a formal presentation to the class on one of the books listed in the syllabus calendar, and will guide a discussion of it for that day’s meeting (worth 30% of the final course grade). On each of the other days, students will bring in a one-page position paper on the primary source readings or viewings, and will bring copies for the other students (graded as 0, 2, 4, or 6 points each, together worth 30% of the final course grade).

Outside of class, students will each develop a research project in comparative / Atlantic World history (worth 40% of the final course grade). The project will include the historical problem or questions to be addressed, discussion of the relevant literature, a preliminary annotated bibliography, and rationales for locating and analyzing primary sources (sources should NOT be available online). A draft of the proposal will be handed in during the semester for my comments and questions. The final draft (10 pp. maximum) will be handed in at the last class meeting (Dec. 1), together with a copy of the earlier draft with comments. Failure to hand in both drafts will constitute a failure (F) of the assignment. Documentation should follow the notes and bibliography system of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. For further guidance, use Rampolla’s *Pocket Guide to Writing in History*.