

# **HIS 207: Topics in Premodern World History**

## **The Caribbean in World History: Columbus to Haiti (Fall 2017)**

**Lectures:** Mondays & Wednesdays: 1:00-1:50 pm (MHRA 1215)

**Dr. Linda Rupert** ([lmrupert@uncg.edu](mailto:lmrupert@uncg.edu))

**Office hours:** Mondays 2:00-3:00, Wednesdays 10:00-12:00, and by appointment (MHRA 2105)

**Section meetings:** Fridays: 12:00-12:50 (MHRA 1211) & 1:00-1:50 (MHRA 1204)

**Ms. Kimberly Cheek** ([kmcheek2@uncg.edu](mailto:kmcheek2@uncg.edu))

**Office hours:** Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 and by appointment (MHRA 2323)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

From Columbus's misguided attempt to find a route to Asia, to the outbreak of the world's only successful slave revolution three hundred years later, the Caribbean was at the center of early modern world history. This course explores major moments in Caribbean history and their relationship to wider historical trends.

### **READINGS**

**Required text:** Jan Rogozinski, *A Brief History of the Caribbean: From the Arawak and Carib to the Present*. Second Edition. (Penguin Plume, 2000). This book is available at the UNCG bookstore or from online sellers. Please make sure you have the second edition.

Primary documents for Friday discussion will be handed out in class on Wednesday. You also will receive some maps and other documents during lectures. All handouts will be posted in the Files section of the course Canvas site. Always bring the book and the unit handouts to class. Make sure to complete and review all readings before you attend the discussion section meeting.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT**

At the completion of this course students will be able to:

- Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives (GHP 1)
- Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and in writing (GHP 2)
- Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse cultures (GN 1)
- Describe interconnections among regions of the world (GN 2)
- Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues (GN 3)

These goals will be achieved through reading primary and secondary sources, in-class discussion, quizzes on weekly readings, unit tests, and a final take-home exam.

#### **Assignments**

Unit tests (15% x 3): 45%

Friday quizzes: 15%

Final (take home) exam: 20%

Participation in Friday discussion: 20%

#### **Grading Scale**

A+: 97-100, A: 94-96, A-: 90-93

C+: 77-79, C: 74-76, C-: 70-73

B+: 87-89; B: 84-86, B-: 80-83

D+: 67-69, D: 64-66, D-: 60-63

F: 0-59

#### **Important Dates**

**Friday, September 15:** Unit 1 test

**Wednesday, November 29:** Unit 3 test

**Friday, October 20:** Unit 2 test

**Wednesday, December 6:** final (take home) exam due

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance:** There is a direct relationship between student engagement (attendance, attention, and taking notes) and grades. Students who repeatedly miss class, arrive late, leave early, do not take notes, or are distracted (especially by electronic devices) rarely do well in my courses. Students who must miss class should consult with fellow students to get up to speed and get copies of notes. Neither the professor nor the TA can provide course notes. If you face a prolonged crisis, such as extended illness, personal emergency, or family tragedy, please contact the Dean of Students. (See below.)

**Makeup and Late Work Policy:** Makeup unit tests require appropriate documentation of illness or other legitimate absence. All makeup tests will take place during the course's regularly scheduled final exam time (3:30 pm on Wednesday, December 6), which is set by the University Registrar and cannot be changed.

**Quizzes and participation in Friday discussion section cannot be made up.** In computing your final grade, we will drop the three lowest quiz scores (including any zeros or absences).

**Class Etiquette:** A classroom is a communal space where we all interact courteously. Please do not bring food unless you have enough to share with the entire class. You are welcome to bring a drink. Cell phones should be on "silent" mode and put away; inform the professor if you must take an emergency call and sit near the door so you can exit without disturbing the class. Arriving late, leaving during class, surfing the Internet, texting, and sleeping (or appearing to sleep) interfere with learning and disrupt others.

**Communication:** We will communicate in this course via the Canvas site and our UNCG e-mail accounts. Check both regularly. (Be sure to set your Notification Preferences in Canvas Settings to ASAP.) The best way to contact the professor or TA is via e-mail. You should expect to hear back within 24 hours, unless: 1) it is the weekend; 2) you receive an automatic "out of office" reply. It is your responsibility to make sure that the communication is successful.

**Academic Integrity:** Enrollment in this course and submission of each written assignment constitute a student's acceptance of UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy. Make sure you read and understand the policy, which is available at: [sa.uncg.edu/dean/academic-integrity/violation/](http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/academic-integrity/violation/). Know the rules. If in doubt, ask.

## **IMPORTANT UNCG RESOURCES**

**History Department** ([his.uncg.edu/](http://his.uncg.edu/) ; [www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/](http://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/))

Have you considered majoring or minoring in history? It may be easier than you think!

**Dean of Students** ([sa.uncg.edu/dean/support/](http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/support/)): Supports and advocates for students in crisis, including those with family emergencies, extended illness, trauma, etc.

**Office of Accessibility Resources and Services** ([ods.uncg.edu/](http://ods.uncg.edu/)): Students who have documented disabilities that require accommodation should register with OARS and bring in the required paperwork during the first week of class. No accommodations can be made without the appropriate paperwork from OARS.

**Information Technology Services** ([its.uncg.edu/](http://its.uncg.edu/)): Your source for all tech problems, including computer malfunctions, issues with Canvas, etc. We cannot help you with these!

**University Writing Center** ([writingcenter.uncg.edu/](http://writingcenter.uncg.edu/)): Provides help with paper structure, argument, grammar, style, etc.

**University Speaking Center** ([speakingcenter.uncg.edu/](http://speakingcenter.uncg.edu/)): Provides help for all oral presentations, to both individuals and groups.

**SCHEDULE OF UNIT THEMES AND READINGS**

**Unit 1: Cultures in Contact**

***Week 1 (August 16-18): Europe and the Caribbean on the eve of conquest***

Readings: Rogozinski, Preface & Chapter 1

***Week 2 (August 21-25): Columbus***

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 2

***Week 3 (August 28-September 1): Impact of the conquest***

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 3

***Week 4 (September 4-8): Spain's empire in the Caribbean and beyond***

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 4

***No class on Monday, September 4 (Labor Day)***

***Week 5 (September 11-15): Unit 1 summation***

***Unit 1 test on Friday, September 15***

**Unit 2: New Empires and Colonies**

***Week 6 (September 18-22): Incursions into the Spanish Sea***

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 5

***Week 7 (September 25-29): New European settlements***

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 6

***Week 8 (October 2-6): Pirates!***

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 7

***Week 9 (October 11-13): Wars and imperial rivalries***

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 8

***No class on Monday, October 9 (fall break)***

***Week 10 (October 16-20): Unit 2 summation***

***Unit 2 test on Friday, October 20***

**Unit 3: Consolidating Empires and Colonies**

***Week 11 (October 23-27): The slave trade and the plantation complex***

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 9

***Week 12 (October 30-November 3): Living and dying under enslavement***

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 10

***Week 13 (November 6-10): Imperial rivalries***

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 11

***Weeks 14 & 15 (November 13-20): Resistance, rebellion, and revolution***

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 12

***No class on Wednesday, November 22 & Friday, November 24 (Thanksgiving)***

***Week 16 (November 27-29): Unit 3 summation***

***Unit 3 test on Wednesday, November 29***