

HIS 207: Topics in Premodern World History **The Caribbean in World History: Columbus to Haiti (Fall 2018)**



Lectures: Mondays & Wednesdays: 1:00-1:50 pm (Bryan 111)

Section meetings: Fridays: 12:00-12:50 (MHRA 2210) and 1:00-1:50 (MHRA 1213)

Professor: Dr. Linda Rupert

(lmrupert@uncg.edu)

Office hours: Mon 2-3; Wed 10:00-12:00
and by appointment (MHRA 2105)

TA: Mr. Matthew Hintz

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Office hours: Fri 2-4
by appointment (MHRA 2323)

COURSE OVERVIEW

From Columbus's misguided attempt to find a route to Asia, to the violent outbreak of the Haitian Revolution three hundred years later, the Caribbean was at the center of early modern world history. This course explores major moments in early Caribbean history, their relationship to wider historical trends, and the impact on the lives of the people who lived in the region. Topics include the rise and consolidation of European empires and their overseas colonies; trade, piracy, and smuggling; the transatlantic slave trade, slavery and the plantation complex.

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 and from online sellers. Make sure you have the second edition. The book is also on reserve at the circulation desk of Jackson Library.

Assignments and Grading

Unit tests (15% x 3): 45%

Weekly quizzes: 20%

Final (take home) exam: 20%

Participation in Friday discussion: 15%

Grading Scale

A: 94-100, A-: 90-93

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

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

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

F: 0-59

Important Dates

Wednesday, September 12: Unit 1 test

Wednesday, November 28: Unit 3 test

Wednesday, October 17: Unit 2 test

Monday, December 3: final (take home) exam due

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS (subject to modification)

Unit 1: The Sixteenth Century: Cultural Collisions

Week 1 (August 15-17): Course introduction

Readings: Rogozinski, Preface & Chapter 1

Week 2 (August 20-24): Columbus, contact, and conquest

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 2

Week 3 (August 27-31): Consequences of Spanish colonization

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 3

Week 4 (September 5-7): Governing overseas colonies

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 4

*** *No class on Monday, September 3 (Labor Day). Weekly quiz will be on Wednesday, September 5.* ***

Week 5 (September 10-14): Unit 1 summation and test

*** *Unit 1 test on Wednesday, September 12.* ***

Unit 2: The Long Seventeenth Century: New Empires, New Peoples

Week 6 (September 17-21): Challenging Spanish power

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 5

Week 7 (September 24-28): Changing political configurations

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 6

Week 8 (October 1-5): Trade, piracy, and smuggling

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 7

Week 9 (October 10-12): The impact of wars and imperial rivalries

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 8

*** *No class on Monday, October 8 (fall break). Weekly quiz will be on Wednesday, October 10.* ***

Week 10 (October 15-19): Unit 2 summation and test

*** *Unit 2 test on Wednesday, October 17.* ***

Unit 3: The Short Eighteenth Century: Empire and Enslavement

Week 11 (October 22-26): The slave trade and the plantation complex

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 9

Week 12 (October 29-November 2): Living and dying under slavery

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 10

Week 13 (November 5-9): Imperial rivalries and their impact

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 11

Weeks 14 & 15 (November 12-19): Resistance, rebellion, and revolution

Readings: Rogozinski, Chapter 12

*** *No class on Wednesday, November 21 or Friday, November 23. Happy Thanksgiving!* ***

Week 16 (November 26-28): Unit 3 summation and test

*** *Unit 3 test on Wednesday, November 28* ***

*** *Final take home exam due on Monday, December 3.* ***

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Active engagement in class is key to student success. This means attending lectures and discussion section, paying close attention, and taking good notes. 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. If you must miss class 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 that interferes with multiple courses, such as extended illness, personal emergency, or family tragedy, contact the office of the Dean of Students. (See below.)

Readings and handouts: Keeping up with weekly readings is vital to student success. In addition to the course textbook, there will also be weekly handouts, including copies of primary (original) documents, maps, and occasionally, short articles. Students will receive one paper printout of each handout; they also will be posted in the Files section of the course Canvas site. Always bring the book and all the unit handouts to every class. The best way to organize handouts is to put them all together in a folder with pockets. Any changes in the readings or syllabus will be announced in class and posted in the Announcements on Canvas.

Study questions and quizzes: The study questions for each week's readings will be posted in Canvas by the end of the previous week. Each Monday there will be a short quiz on the week's assigned reading, using one of these questions. The questions and quizzes will help you prepare for the unit tests.

Friday discussion section: The primary documents for Friday discussion will be handed out in class on Monday or Wednesday; they will also be posted in the Files section of Canvas. Read them carefully and come to section prepared to discuss how they relate to the week's other readings and lectures. Make sure to attend and participate actively in Friday discussion every week!

Unit tests and final exam: The unit tests cover any material from lectures, discussion, readings, and handouts that correspond to the unit and time period. (Any information in the readings that is outside the unit's time period will not be on the test.) Tests will include map identification, short answer IDs, multiple choice, and analysis of primary documents. The final exam will be a take home essay, and will test your understanding of major changes in Caribbean history across all three units. You will get more information about the tests and the final exam as the course progresses.

Makeup Policy: Makeup unit tests are at the discretion of the professor and require appropriate documentation of illness or other legitimate absence. Quizzes and participation in Friday discussion section cannot be made up. Sometimes life just happens, so in computing your final grade we will drop the three lowest quiz scores (including any zeros or absences), and we will allow for two absences from Friday discussion section.

Office Hours: Feel free to come by during office hours or make an appointment to discuss any concerns you have about the course. No appointment is necessary to visit Dr. Rupert during regular office hours. Please email Mr. Hintz or let him know during section if you plan to visit his office hours.

Communications: We will communicate in this course via Canvas and our UNCG e-mail accounts. Check both regularly. (Be sure to set your Notification Preferences in Canvas Settings to ASAP to receive announcements and updates via email.) 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.

Class Etiquette: A classroom is a communal space where we all interact courteously. Arriving late, leaving during class, surfing the Internet, texting, and sleeping (or appearing to sleep) all interfere with learning and distract others. 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 before class if you must take an emergency call or leave early, and sit near the door so you can exit without disturbing the class. If you arrive late or must leave during class, please be as quiet as possible, and watch that the door does not slam.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Students in this course will develop literacy in reading and interpreting different types of evidence, including maps, tables, and primary documents. They will also develop skills in distinguishing between facts, interpretations, and opinion, and in matching specific, relevant evidence to appropriate arguments.

All the assignments in this course are designed to help students meet the following learning goals and learning outcomes developed by the UNCG History Department and the College of Arts and Sciences:

History Department Student Learning Goals: Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- Identify pivotal moments and major trends in the development of Caribbean history over three centuries, situating the actions of individuals and groups in the context of larger structures and wider processes in regional and world history [Historical Comprehension]
- Use historical thinking to contextualize and critically analyze different types of evidence, especially tables, maps, and primary documents, related to the Caribbean's early history [Historical Analysis]

General College Historical Perspective (GHP) Student Learning Outcomes: Students will learn to:

- Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize a variety of different types of primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives on early Caribbean history (GHP 1)
- Use different types of evidence, including maps, tables, primary documents, and secondary sources, to interpret the early history of the Caribbean (GHP 2)

General College Global Non-Western (GN) Student Learning Outcomes: Students will learn to:

- Interpret and evaluate different types of information about the diverse cultures of the Caribbean (GN 1)
- Describe and analyze connections between the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa (GN 2)
- Use diverse cultural frames of reference and perspectives to analyze early Caribbean history (GN 3)

IMPORTANT UNCG RESOURCES

These are your go-to experts for specific problems and issues!

History Department (his.uncg.edu/ AND www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/): Have you considered majoring or minoring in history? It may be easier than you think! Browse our website and Facebook page, and feel free to make an appointment with Dr. Rupert to discuss how history might fit into your study plans.

Dean of Students (sa.uncg.edu/dean/support/): Supports and advocates for students in crisis. If you experience a family emergency, extended illness, trauma, etc., they can help you get back on track.

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (<https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>): Are you confused about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it? This website has everything you need to know!

Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (ods.uncg.edu/): The first stop for students who need accommodations for a documented disability. Please bring the required paperwork the first week of class.

Information Technology Services (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/): Provides support for all types of writing assignments.

University Speaking Center (speakingcenter.uncg.edu): Besides providing help for in-class presentations, the Speaking Center has useful resources and tips for students who are shy about speaking up in class or section.