

HIS 207.01 & .02: Topics in Premodern World History

The Caribbean in World History: Columbus to Haiti (Fall 2020)

Professor: Dr. Linda Rupert (lmrupert@uncg.edu; virtual office hours: Wednesdays 9-11 am (via Zoom))

Teaching Assistants:

Section 01: Mr. Felton Foushee (fwfoushe@uncg.edu); virtual office hours: Mondays 9-11 am (via Zoom)

Section 02: Ms. Emilee Robbins (enrobbi2@uncg.edu); virtual office hours: Mondays 9-11 am (via Zoom)



COURSE DESCRIPTION

From Columbus's misguided attempt to find a route to Asia, to the outbreak of the Haitian Revolution (the world's most successful slave revolt), the Caribbean was at the center of early modern world history. This course explores major moments in the region's history over three hundred years, their relationship to wider historical processes, and the impact of these on the lives of the region's diverse peoples.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course will be taught completely online. It is asynchronous, meaning that you will complete each week's work at your own pace, but by the deadlines. There is no textbook. All readings and other resources will be accessible via the blue Modules tab of the course Canvas site (located on the left-hand side of the page.) Be sure to complete assignments in the order they appear in the Module and by the deadlines.

GRADING

Quizzes (1-2 per week):	25%	Weekly discussions:	25%
Midterm exam:	25%	Final exam:	25%

Quizzes and exams are open book and untimed, with firm deadlines. Grading will be based on:

- understanding and using the assigned course materials
- closely following all instructions and clearly answering the questions
- expressing all answers and ideas in your own words (citing sources, as appropriate)

Grading Scale

A+: 97-100	A: 93-96	A-: 90-92	B+: 87-89	B: 83-86	B-: 80-82	
C+: 77-79	C: 73-76	C-: 70-72	D+: 67-69	D: 63-66	D-: 60-62	F: 0-59

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, August 18: First day of classes

Monday, August 24: Last day to withdraw with full refund

Friday, October 9: Midterm exam due; last day to drop a class

Tuesday, November 24: Last day of classes

Wednesday, December 2: Final exam due

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & ASSESSMENT

This course assesses the development of students' abilities related to the following learning outcomes:

History Department (HIS)

1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods. [Historical Comprehension] (midterm and final exams)
2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. [Historical Analysis] (quizzes, discussion boards, exams)

General Education Global Non-Western Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes (GNP)

1. Interpret or evaluate information on diverse cultures. (quizzes, discussion boards, exams)
2. Describe interconnections among cultures, politics, and/or intellectual traditions of the world other than the dominant Euro-American ones. (quizzes, discussions boards, exams)
3. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues (discussions, exams)

General Education Historical Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes (HP)

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives. (discussion boards, midterm and final exams)
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing. (quizzes, discussion boards, exams)

COURSE OUTLINE (may be modified, if needed)

This course is divided into four three-week units, plus one week each for the introduction and conclusions. You will access everything via the Modules section of Canvas. Each week has a separate Module.

First Week (August 19-21): Introduction to the Caribbean and to the course

There are two short Modules to complete this week, the first by Wednesday evening, the second by Friday.

Unit 1: Cultural Collisions

Unit 1 Week 1 (August 24-28): Contact and Conquest

Unit 1 Week 2 (August 31- September 4): Pandemics and Early Slavery

Unit 1 Week 3 (September 7-11): Legacies of Conquest

Unit 2: Plantation Slavery

Unit 2 Week 1 (September 14-18): Rise of the Plantation Complex

Unit 2 Week 2 (September 21-25): The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Unit 2 Week 3 (September 28-October 2): Living and Dying in Slavery

***** Midterm exam due by Friday, October 9 *****

Unit 3: Pirates, Smugglers, and Merchants

Unit 3 Week 1 (October 12-16): The Black Flag in the Blue Caribbean

Unit 3 Week 2 (October 19-23): Contraband!

Unit 3 Week 3 (October 26-30): Colonial Merchants in a Plantation Society

Unit 4: Resisting Slavery

Unit 4 Week 1 (November 2-6): Free People of Color

Unit 4 Week 2 (November 9-13): Rebellion and Revolt

Unit 4 Week 3 (November 16-20): The Haitian Revolution

Final Week (November 23-24): Conclusions: The Caribbean in World History

***** Final exam due by Wednesday, December 2 *****

NAVIGATING THIS COURSE

You will work through this course in Canvas using Modules tab (located in the blue menu on the left-hand side of the page). Everything you need for the week—links to all readings, assignments, discussions, quizzes, etc.—will be accessible via Modules. Each week’s Module will open by the weekend before (sometimes earlier).

You can also directly access Announcements, Discussions, and Assignments (and later, Grades) from the blue menu. Be sure to set your Notification Preferences in Canvas Settings to ASAP so you will receive announcements and other course updates via email.

Time management in an online course: Plan to spend about 6 hours per week on this class—as much time as if it were taught in a classroom. Like all forms of education an online course brings new opportunities for learning and also its own particular challenges. One advantage is that you can complete the material on your own schedule. But without the structure of regular class meetings it can be easy to fall behind. You must keep up with the weekly assignments and adhere to deadlines to stay on track. Plan your time wisely.

Internet Access: You can successfully complete this course with limited Internet access, but it will take some organization and discipline. Plan to spend 2-3 hours online each week, in at least two different sessions. You can download readings, maps, and study questions, and view any Websites at the beginning of each week, then complete much of the work offline. After you work through these, you will need to get online again to participate in discussions, take quizzes, and upload completed assignments.

Computer Access: You will need to use a laptop or desk computer several times a week throughout this course. A handheld mobile device such as a Smartphone is not sufficient.

Weekly Assignments: Readings, study questions, quizzes, and discussions are designed to help you understand the material more deeply than simply learning facts. Make sure to carefully read and follow all instructions. It is essential that you keep up with these assignments and meet the deadlines. If you fall behind by more than a week or two it will be very difficult to catch up and you may fail the course.

Readings and study questions: Weekly readings include secondary sources (written by historians after the event) and primary sources (written by people who lived through the time). There will also be maps and tables to analyze. Study questions will help you get the most out of these, in preparation for the quizzes.

Quizzes: All quizzes are open book and untimed, with a firm deadline. They must be submitted via Canvas.

Discussions: Actively participating in weekly online discussions will help you better understand and analyze the course materials. You have been assigned to one of four discussion groups, led by your TA. Develop the art of conversation with your fellow students and work to improve your skills in written communications.

Midterm and final exam: These will ask you to bring together material across the units to consider the role of the Caribbean in world history. They are untimed, open book, and draw exclusively on course materials. Make sure to carefully read and follow all instructions. You will have a week to complete each one and they must be submitted via the Canvas Assignment, not email. You will receive more information about both in due time.

COURSE POLICIES

Late Work: This course has strict deadlines. You have ample time to complete each assignment at your own pace. No quizzes or discussion posts will be accepted after the due date; however, we recognize that sometimes life happens, so at the end of the semester we will drop your three lowest scores for each, including any zeros or missed assignments. Plan wisely and assume that you may have an emergency or illness later in the semester.

You will have a week to complete both the midterm and the final exam, at your own pace; extensions will only be given in exceptional cases, with permission from Dr. Rupert, and may incur a significant penalty.

Communications: We will communicate exclusively through Canvas and our UNCG e-mail accounts. Check both regularly. Feel free to email any questions or concerns. You can expect to hear back from Dr. Rupert or your TA within 24 hours unless it is the weekend or a holiday. We will hold virtual office hours via Zoom starting the second week of classes. Look for an announcement in Canvas with instructions on how to access office hours.

Academic Integrity: Enrollment in this course and submission of each assignment constitute a student's acceptance of UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy, especially as it relates to [plagiarism](#). Quite simply, plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas without giving them credit. It is best to use your own words, use quotes sparingly, and be sure to provide full citations whenever you are using a direct quote or an idea you got from the readings. Know the rules. If in doubt, ask.

IMPORTANT UNCG RESOURCES

We are very fortunate that UNCG has a wide array of excellent services to support students at every level. These are your go-to experts for specific problems and issues. While many standard university procedures have been modified in these pandemic times, and some offices may have restricted in-person visiting hours, all are fully open and available to help. The links will take you directly to their updated Websites.

Shield our Spartans: Although this course will be conducted entirely online, it is important that you regularly review UNCG's Covid-19 updates and strictly follow all required procedures. Show that you care about our community!

History Department: 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 reach out to Dr. Rupert to discuss how history might fit into your study plans.

Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS): The first stop for students who need accommodations for a documented disability. Make sure to send the required paperwork to Dr. Rupert the first week of classes. No accommodations can be made without this completed paperwork.

Information Technology Services (ITS): Your source for all tech problems, including computer malfunctions, issues with Canvas, Internet connectivity, etc. They know far more about all this than we do!

Student Health Services: Provides free, confidential support for a variety of [mental](#) and [physical](#) health issues. Take good care of your body and your mind! Both are vital in these stressful times.

Students First Office: This is your one-stop resource for a variety of support services to help ensure your academic success.

Dean of Students: Provides information, guidelines, and practical information to support students in a wide range of situations, including crises and emergencies.

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities: This office has information about expectations for student conduct, academic integrity, appeal procedures, due process, and more.

The Writing Center: Provides useful resources for all types of writing assignments, no matter how large or small. You can schedule a meeting to discuss a specific assignment and also access a wide variety of information and tips to strengthen your writing.

Voting Resources: This is an election year; make your voice heard! UNCG has a regularly updated page with all the information you need to register, cast your ballot, find your polling place, and more.