

HIS 207.02: Topics in Premodern World History The Caribbean in World History: Columbus to Haiti (Fall 2021)

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

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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. Yet its role has often been ignored. This course explores major moments in the region's history over three hundred years, their relationship to wider historical processes, and the impact on the lives of the region's diverse peoples.

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

GRADING

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

All quizzes, discussions, and exams are open book and untimed, with firm deadlines.

Grading will be based on:

- demonstrating clear understanding of the assigned course materials
- closely following all instructions and clearly answering the questions (citing sources, when appropriate)
- expressing all answers and ideas clearly in your own words, using complete, grammatically correct sentences, punctuation, spelling etc.

Grading Scale

A: 93-100	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 17: First day of classes

Monday, August 23: Drop/add ends; last day to withdraw with full refund

Friday, October 8: Last day to drop a class without penalty of WF

Saturday, October 9: Midterm exam due

Wednesday, December 1: Last day of classes

Saturday, December 4: Final exam due

COURSE OUTLINE (may be modified, as needed)

This course is divided into four three-week units, plus one week each for the introduction and conclusions, and one week each for the midterm and final exams. You will access everything via the Modules section of Canvas. Each week has a separate Module, with links to all the week's material—lectures, readings, maps, quizzes, etc.

First Week (August 17-21): Introduction to the Caribbean and to the course

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

Unit 1: Cultural Collisions

Unit 1 Week 1 (August 23-28): Contact and Conquest

Unit 1 Week 2 (August 30- September 4): Pandemics and Early Slavery

Unit 1 Week 3 (September 6-11): Legacies of Conquest

Unit 2: Plantation Slavery

Unit 2 Week 1 (September 13-18): Rise of the Plantation Complex

Unit 2 Week 2 (September 20-25): The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Unit 2 Week 3 (September 27-October 2): Living and Dying in Slavery

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

Unit 3: Pirates, Smugglers, and Merchants

Unit 3 Week 1 (October 11-16): Contraband!

Unit 3 Week 2 (October 18-23): The Black Flag in the Blue Caribbean

Unit 3 Week 3 (October 25-30): Colonial Merchants in a Plantation Society

Unit 4: Resisting Slavery

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

Unit 4 Week 2 (November 8-13): Rebellion and Revolt

Unit 4 Week 3 (November 15-20): The Haitian Revolution

Final Week (November 22-24): Conclusions: The Caribbean in World History

***** Final exam due by Saturday, December 4 *****

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

This course meets *UNCG's Minerva Academic Curriculum Learning Goal #6: Critical Thinking and Inquiry in the Humanities*. Throughout the course, students will develop a working knowledge of the foundational tools for reasoning, including constructing sound arguments, evaluating the quality of evidence, and forming judgments about the evidence, arguments, and conclusions used by others.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have developed skills in:

1. Critically analyzing claims, arguments, artifacts, and information (via quizzes, discussions, exams)
2. Constructing coherent, evidence-based arguments (through discussions, exams).

Students will also develop proficiency in the following *History Department learning goals*:

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

COURSE NAVIGATION AND POLICIES

Canvas: Students will work through this course in Canvas using the 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, Websites, discussions, quizzes, etc.—will be accessible there. Each week’s Module will open by the previous weekend.

Check the Canvas Home Page regularly for the latest course information. You can 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 timely course updates via email. And don’t forget to check your UNCG email regularly!

Time Management in an Online Course: Plan to spend up to 9 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!

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.* Download readings, maps, etc. to a dedicated folder on your computer (or USB) that you can find easily; you may find it helpful to print them.

Internet Access: You can successfully complete this course with limited Internet access, but it will take some organization and discipline. Plan to spend several hours online each week, in at least two or three different sessions. You can download readings, maps, and study questions, and view lectures and any Websites at the beginning of each week, then go through the material offline. Then you will need to get online again at least once or twice to take the quiz and participate in the discussion.

Weekly Assignments: Readings, study questions, quizzes, and discussions are designed to help you understand the material more deeply, beyond simply learning facts, and to think about it critically. 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 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 and exams.

Discussions: Actively participating in weekly online discussions will help you better understand and analyze the course materials. You have been assigned to a small discussion group so you can get to know some of your fellow students. Develop the art of respectful conversation and work to improve your skills in written communications. Initial posts are due by Thursday night, with replies to your fellow students by Saturday.

Quizzes: Weekly quizzes are open book and untimed, via Canvas, with a firm deadline of Saturday night.

Midterm and final exam: These will ask you to bring together material and make connections across the units. 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 at your own pace (including reviewing the course material), and they must be submitted via the Canvas Assignment, not email. You will receive more information about both in due time.

Late Work: This course has strict deadlines. You have ample time to complete all weekly assignments 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 *Canvas will automatically drop your three lowest scores for quizzes and discussions, including any you have missed. Plan wisely and assume that you may have an*

emergency or illness later in the semester. For the midterm and final exams, extensions will only be given in exceptional cases, with proper documentation, and may incur a 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 within 24 hours unless it is the weekend or a holiday, or you receive an automatic “out of office” reply.

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. The links will take you directly to their Websites. Expert help is just a click away!

[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! ***See the material and links in the Canvas Module Week 1 Part 1 for more information.***

[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 step 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 health issues.

[Counselling Center](#): These are exceptionally stressful times for everyone. The Center provides Tele-mental Health consultations and also has resources dedicated specifically to the ongoing [impact of the pandemic on mental health](#). Take good care of your body **and** your mind! Both are feeling the stresses of the 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.