

Fall 2022 | University of North Carolina, Greensboro
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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. (in person), Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(email for Zoom link at least 24 hours before), and by appointment

HIS 701: Colloquium in American History

Course Syllabus

Covering the period from Encounter to Reconstruction, this colloquium hones in on key moments in American history. This course will also expose students to history from a variety of different perspectives, methodologies and approaches. Students will analyze and evaluate scholarly work and position them within the historiography through a series of three papers.

Course Requirements: The requirements for this course include assigned readings for each class and three papers.

Assigned Readings: There are thirteen books assigned for this course. For the list of books, see the class schedule below. All of the books can be purchased at the University Bookstore.

Attendance and Late Policy: Attendance in class is mandatory. The door will close ten minutes after class starts. Once the door closes, students will no longer be admitted to the class and will be considered absent. Students are allowed one absence, excused or unexcused, without an impact on their grade. **For the second and every subsequent absence, students will receive a five-point grade deduction.** Assignments submitted in class are due at the beginning of the class period. Students who submit assignments after the deadline will be penalized with a grade deduction based on the lateness of the assignment. No assignments will be accepted one week after the due date. All assignments must be submitted in hard copy.

Plagiarism Policy: The University defines plagiarism as: “Representing the words, thoughts, or ideas of another, as one’s own in any academic exercise.”¹ (See the University's [Academic Integrity Policies](https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/policies/) for further information.) All sources (books, articles, documents, internet sites, etc.) used in any paper or assignment must be properly cited or will be considered plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism will receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion from the University.

Final Grade Composition

- Participation 25%

¹ <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/violations-and-sanctions/plagiarism/>

- Papers (3x25%) 75%

Participation: Participation in discussion is mandatory. **Students should be prepared to discuss the readings on the day that they are assigned.** Attendance alone is not sufficient for full participation credit.

Papers: Students are required to write three seven- to nine-page papers based on assigned readings and other course materials, due on **September 21, November 2,** and **November 30.** All sources in the papers should be properly cited according to the guidelines laid out in [*The Chicago Manual of Style*](#), which is available on-line.

Class Schedule

Week 1 (August 17): Introduction

Week 2 (August 24): John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800* (Cambridge, second edition 1998)

Week 3 (August 31): Robbie Ethridge, *From Chicaza to Chicasaw: The European Invasion and Transformation of the Mississippian World, 1540-1715* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010)

Week 4 (September 7): Kathleen Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race, and Power in Colonial Virginia* (University of North Carolina Press, 1996)

Week 5 (September 14): William Cronon, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England* (Hill and Wang, revised edition 2003)

Week 6 (September 21): Kathleen Duval, *The Native Ground: Indians and Colonists in the Heart of the Continent* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007)

Paper due at the beginning of class

Week 7 (September 28): Woody Holton, *Liberty Is Sweet: The Hidden History of the American Revolution* (Simon and Schuster, 2021)

Week 8 (October 5): Jack Rakove, *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution* (Vintage, 1997)

Week 9 (October 12): Class Canceled

Week 10 (October 19): Seth Rockman, *Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009)

Week 11 (October 26): Claudio Saunt, *Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territories* (W.W. Norton, 2020)

Week 12 (November 2): Edward Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* (Basic, 2016)

Paper due at the beginning of class

Week 13 (November 9): Brian Delay, *War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Raids and the U.S. Mexican War* (Yale, 2009)

Week 14 (November 16): Joanne Freeman, *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to Civil War* (Picador, 2019)

No Class (November 23)

Week 15 (November 30): Stephanie McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning* (Harvard University Press, 2016)

Paper due at the beginning of class