

HIS 391: Honors Seminar in History
The Atlantic World
Spring 2009

Tu 3:30-6:20 pm
Room Moore HRA 1208

Dr. Linda Rupert
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Office hours: Thursdays 10-12 and by appointment (Moore HRA 2106)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This advanced seminar, required for the Honors distinction in history, introduces students to important approaches and perspectives in the historical profession, in a forum which promotes collegiality and discussion. This year students will be exposed to a transnational approach to history through the lens of the Atlantic World, one of the newest and fastest-growing fields in our discipline. The course will include an overview of the basic narrative of Atlantic history—the development of European empires, the creation of American colonies, and the emergence of trans-imperial networks in the early modern period (roughly 1400-1800). In addition to the geography and chronology, we will discuss major themes in Atlantic World history, and the variety of approaches which historians have taken to this dynamic field, as well as considering some of the challenges involved in a comparative, cross-cultural approach which moves beyond a traditional nation-state narrative.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following are required and are available at the UNCG bookstore:

Egerton, Douglas, et al. *The Atlantic World: A History, 1400-1888*. Harlan Davidson, 2007.

Games, Alison and Adam Rothman. *Major Problems in Atlantic History*. Houghton Mifflin, 2008.

They are also on closed reserves at the circulation desk of the library.

There will also be some articles and documents on e-reserves.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the basic historical narrative of the emergence and development of the Atlantic World in the early modern period (roughly 1400-1800)
- Appreciate the usefulness of a transnational approach to historical analysis
- Interpret and analyze primary documents with reference to their historical context
- Appraise, analyze, and critique a body of historiography, by evaluating different arguments, perspectives, and evidence
- Demonstrate their ability to read, think, write, and analyze at an appropriately advanced level to receive the Honors distinction in history.

OVERVIEW OF CLASSES AND READINGS

Week 1 (Tuesday, January 20): *What is the Atlantic World? What is Atlantic History?*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapter 1; *Major Problems*, Chapter 1

Week 2 (Tuesday, January 27): *Before the Atlantic World*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapter 2; *Major Problems*, Chapter 2

Week 3 (Tuesday, February 3): *Iberian Expansion*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapter 3; *Major Problems*, Chapters 3 & 5 (selections)

Week 4 (Tuesday, February 10): *Creating Empires*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapter 4; *Major Problems*, Chapter 4

Week 5 (Tuesday, February 17): *Consolidating Colonies*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapter 5; *Major Problems*, Chapters 5 & 6 (selections)

Week 6 (Tuesday, February 24): *The Slave Trade*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapter 6; *Major Problems*, Chapters 6 & 8 (selections)

Week 7 (Tuesday, March 3): *The World that Trade Made*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapter 7; *Major Problems*, Chapter 7

******* SPRING BREAK Tuesday, March 10: NO CLASS *******

Week 8 (Tuesday, March 17): *Cultures in Contact*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapter 8; *Major Problems*, Chapter 9

Week 9 (Tuesday, March 24): *Piracy, Privateering, and Warfare*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapter 9; *Major Problems*, selections from Chapters 8 & 10

Week 10 (Tuesday, March 31): *Maturing Colonial Identities*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapter 10; *Major Problems*, Chapter 11 (selections)

Week 11 (Tuesday, April 7): *The Age of Revolutions*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapter 11; *Major Problems*, Chapters 11 & 12 (selections)

Week 12 (Tuesday, April 14): *Independence and New Power Configurations*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapters 12 & 13; *Major Problems*, Chapter 12

Week 13 (Tuesday, April 21): *Abolition and Emancipation*

Readings: *The Atlantic World*, Chapter 14; *Major Problems*, Chapters 13 & 14 (selections)

Week 14 (Tuesday, April 28): *Atlantic Legacies*

Readings: *Major Problems*, Chapter 15

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The final grade will be based on the following:

- Three short papers (5-7 pages each) analyzing the approaches and perspectives of selected primary and secondary documents (20% each: 60% total)
- Final paper (10-15 pages): 20%
- Class participation and in-class presentations: 20%

Students will receive a detailed list of requirements for each written assignment. You must successfully complete all assignments to pass the course. Late papers will only be accepted in extreme circumstances and will incur a penalty.

Schedule of Assignments

Paper 1 due in class on *Tuesday, February 17*

Paper 2 due in class on *Tuesday, March 24*

Paper 3 due in class on *Tuesday, April 21*

Final paper due *Monday, May 4*

You will receive more information about these assignments early in the semester.

Grading Scale

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

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity: Enrollment in this course and submission of each written assignment constitute students' acceptance of UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy. You can find a copy of the full policy at: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>. If you have any questions about this policy, including what constitutes plagiarism, please consult with the professor.

Attendance: Attendance is required in this intense discussion seminar. Students who must miss class due to illness or emergency should contact the professor in a timely manner. Students who miss two or more of the weekly seminar discussions will have difficulty meeting course requirements successfully.

Classroom Etiquette: A classroom is a communal space where we all gather for a brief and period to pursue a common goal via group interactions. Electronic devices (including laptop computers and cell phones) are a distraction to our discussion. Food should only be brought to class if you have enough to share with the entire group. You are welcome to bring an individual drink.

Communication: We will communicate regularly in this course via the Blackboard site and our UNCG e-mail accounts. Check both regularly. The best way to communicate with the professor is via e-mail (lmrupert@uncg.edu). 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 and that all material gets in on time. Check the Announcements and Course Documents sections of Blackboard regularly.

DISCIPLINARY HONORS IN HISTORY

Honors work is an exciting opportunity to push beyond the limits of your current knowledge and to embrace different approaches to historical analysis. Honors level work requires full preparation for each class; active, enthusiastic class participation; respectful and vigorous engagement with your classmates' ideas; and careful, timely completion of assignments.

All history majors with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3 are eligible to enroll in the History Department's new Honors program. Honors students complete twelve semester hours of dedicated courses as follows:

- Honors Seminar in History
- One contract honors course at the 300 level or above, to be selected by the student, with the approval of the instructor
- Honors level work in HIS 491 (American), 492 (European), or 493 (wider world)
- HSS 490: Senior Honors Project (in lieu of HIS 511), to be taken after completing the above requirements

Each of these courses counts for three semester hours.

Successful completion of the honors program is noted on a student's official transcript, along with the title of the Senior Honors Project. For more information see the relevant section of the UNCG Undergraduate Bulletin.

Honors Contacts:

History Department Honors Advisor: Dr. Paul Mazgaj (pmmazgaj@uncg.edu)

History Department Director of Undergraduate Studies: Dr. Colleen Kriger (c_krigger@uncg.edu)

Lloyd Honors College: Caitlin Cornwell (cecornwe@uncg.edu; tel: 336-334-4490)

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Dean of Students (<http://deanofstudents.uncg.edu/>; tel: 45514): Supports and advocates for students in crisis.

Office of Information Technology (<http://www.its.uncg.edu>, tel: 6-TECH): Your source for all tech problems (including issues with Blackboard) and computer malfunctions. Please note that computer or printer problems are not a valid excuse for turning in an assignment late.

Office of Disability Services (<http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/>; tel: 45440): Students who have documented disabilities that require special consideration and/or accommodation should register with this office and bring the required paperwork to the professor during the first days of class so we can make the necessary adjustments. No special accommodations can be made without this paperwork.

University Writing Center (www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/; tel: 43125): An excellent resource for help with grammar, paper structure, etc.