

HIS 396.01
Honors Seminar in World History: The Atlantic World
Spring 2011

Thursdays 3:30-6:20 pm
Moore HRA 2208
Office hours: Thursdays 10-12 and by appointment

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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. In this course 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 books are required; they are available at the UNCG bookstore and from online booksellers:

Benjamin, Thomas. *The Atlantic World: Europeans, Africans, Indians, and Their Shared History, 1400-1900*. Cambridge University Press, 2009.

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

The texts are also on closed reserves at the circulation desk of the library. There will also be some articles and documents on e-reserves, as well as class handouts. **Always bring the textbooks and handouts to class.**

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

NOTE: Readings from Games & Rothman will be assigned weekly.

Week 1: Thursday, January 13

Readings: In-class handouts and maps

Week 2: Thursday, January 20

Readings: Benjamin, Preface, Introduction, Introduction to Part I, and Chapter 1, “Antecedents”

Week 3: Thursday, January 27

Readings: Benjamin, Chapter 2, “Commencement”

Week 4: Thursday, February 3

Readings: Benjamin, Chapter 3, “Conquests”

Week 5: Thursday, February 10

Readings: Benjamin, Chapter 4, “Realms”

Week 6: Thursday, February 17

Readings: Benjamin, Introduction to Part II and Chapter 5, “Incursions”

**** Paper 1 due in class ****

Week 7: Thursday, February 24

Readings: Benjamin, Chapter 6, “Engagement”

Week 8: Thursday, March 3

Readings: Benjamin, Chapter 7, “Uprooted”

Thursday, March 10: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Week 9: Thursday, March 17

Readings: Benjamin, Chapter 8, “Bondage”

Week 10: Thursday, March 24

Readings: Benjamin, Chapter 9, “Partners”

Week 11: Thursday, March 31

Readings: Benjamin, Introduction to Part III and Chapter 10, “Rivals”

**** Paper 2 due in class ****

Week 12: Thursday, April 7

Readings: Benjamin, Chapter 11, “Liberty”

Week 13: Thursday, April 14

Readings: Benjamin, Chapter 12, “Equality”

Week 14: Thursday, April 21

Readings: Benjamin, Chapter 13, “Freedom”

**** Paper 3 due to Dr. Rupert’s office on Tuesday, April 26 ****

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

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 (25% each: 75% total)
- Class participation, attendance, and in-class presentations of readings: 25%

Grading Scale

A+: 97-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 0-59
A: 94-96	B: 84-86	C: 74-76	D: 64-66	
A-: 90-93	B-: 80-83	C-: 70-73	D-: 60-63	

Schedule of Assignments

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

Paper 2 due in class on *Thursday, March 31*

Paper 3 due to Dr. Rupert's office on *Tuesday, April 26*

Students will receive a detailed list of requirements for each paper. You must successfully complete all assignments to pass the course. Each paper should be an original work prepared exclusively for this class. Late papers will only be accepted in extreme circumstances and will incur a penalty. Deposit a copy of all written assignments in the Electronic Dropbox of the course Blackboard site, as well as bringing a hard copy to class. If an emergency prevents you from coming to class you can still meet the deadline with an electronic submission.

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 seminars will have difficulty meeting course requirements successfully.

Classroom Etiquette: A classroom is a communal space where we all gather 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 Honors Program. Honors students complete twelve semester hours of dedicated courses as follows (three semester hours each):

- Honors Seminar in History: either HIS 394 (American), 395 (European), or 396 (wider world)
- One contract honors course at the 300 level or above, to be selected by the student, with the approval of the instructor, in which additional work will be completed for honors status
- Honors Work in either 491, 492, or 493, to be taken before HIS 490
- HSS 490, Senior Honors Project (in lieu of HIS 511), to be taken after completing the above requirements

Successful completion of the Disciplinary Honors in History 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:

Lloyd Honors College: Mr. Ryan Radford (rjradfor@uncg.edu)

Also see: <http://honorscollege.uncg.edu/>

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

Also see: <http://web.uncg.edu/reg/Bulletin/Current/HIS/Honors.aspx>

History Department Director of Undergraduate Studies: Dr. Jeff Jones (jwjones@uncg.edu)

OTHER 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.