

HIS 206-3D - Topics in Pre-Modern World History  
Atlantic World  
Course Syllabus

**Contact:**

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**Course Description:**

This course is focused on Atlantic history and the interaction between Europe, Africa, North America, and South America from 1400 to 1830. Topics covered include defining Atlantic history, the Columbian Exchange, empire building, religion, labor, Atlantic slavery, the Age of Revolutions, and paleography. Both primary and secondary sources will be read and analyzed. This is a web-based course. Email and web access required.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives
- Use evidence to interpret the past coherently in writing
- Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse cultures
- Describe interconnection among regions of the world
- Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues
- Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures.
- Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources.
- Use evidence based reason to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument in writing.

**Required Reading:**

All assigned and required readings are posted on Blackboard.

- Robert W. Strayer, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History. Volume 2: Since 1500* (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013).
- David Armitage, "Three Concepts of Atlantic History," in *The British Atlantic World 1500-1800*, eds. Armitage and Braddick (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002), 11-27.
- Alison Games, "Beyond the Atlantic: English Globetrotters and Transoceanic Connections," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 63, no. 4 (Oct. 2006): 675-692.
- Peter A. Coclanis, "Atlantic World or Atlantic/World?," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 63, no. 4 (Oct. 2006): 725-742.
- Ira Berlin, "From Creole to African: Atlantic Creoles and the Origins of African-American Society in Mainland North America," *The William and Mary Quarterly*, 53, no. 2 (Apr. 1996): 151-288.

- John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800* 2nd ed. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998).
- Thomas Benjamin, Timothy Hall, and David Rutherford eds., *The Atlantic World in the Age of Empire* Rutherford (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001).
- Timothy Shannon, *Atlantic Lives: A Comparative Approach to Early America* (New York: Pearson Longman, 2004).
- Catherine Armstrong and Laura Chmielewski, *The Atlantic Experience: People, Places, Ideas* (New York: Palgrave Macmillian, 2013).
- Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra and Erik. R. Seeman eds., *The Atlantic in Global History: 1500-2000* (Uppersaddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007).

### **Required Viewing:**

All assigned and required viewing are posted on Blackboard.

- *Guns, Germs & Steel Part I: Out of Eden* (2005).
- *Guns, Germs & Steel Part II: Conquest* (2005).
- *Racism: A History Part I: The Colour of Money* (2007).

### **Assignments:**

You are expected to complete each week's required reading and writing assignments. You will turn in your written work on either your midterm or your final exam. This allows some flexibility on when you do the assignments. **WARNING:** *Do not wait to attempt all your written work the day or two before the exams.* The work load is too heavy and you will most likely get a poor grade. Use only class notes and assigned readings for all your assignments except the Inventory Primary Source Assignment. The Inventory Assignment will require you to search the internet.

Exams and written assignments will be posted on Blackboard. All exams are due at 11:59 pm EST on the date indicated on the syllabus. Exams will be turned in via Safe Assign on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to properly turn in all assignments correctly and on time. I will not accept emailed submissions. Contact 6-TECH if you have IT trouble,

### **Communication:**

Communication will be conducted via UNCG email. Having an active UNCG email account and checking it regularly is required.

Do not hesitate to email if you have a question or concern about the class or an assignment.

**Grade Breakdown:**

The written assignments you will be completing each week will be turned in with your exams. The exams will be made up of your written assignments in addition to a few short answer questions, identifications, and essays.

	Weight of Final Grade	Due Date
Midterm Exam	40%	4/2/15
Final Exam	60%	4/30/15

**Academic Integrity:**

You shall abide by UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy. Failure to do so will result in failing the class and a referral to the Dean of Students. Plagiarism from the Internet is of great concern. Class notes and assigned readings will provide sufficient information to complete all assignments. For specific questions about UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy, please refer to <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>

**Class Schedule:****Week 1 (3/16 - 3/20)**

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## Reading:

- Robert W. Strayer, "The Worlds of the Fifteenth Century," in *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History. Volume 2: Since 1500* (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013), 383-416.
- David Armitage, "Three Concepts of Atlantic History," in *The British Atlantic World 1500-1800*, eds. Armitage and Braddick (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002), 11-27.
- Alison Games, "Beyond the Atlantic: English Globetrotters and Transoceanic Connections," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 63, no. 4 (Oct. 2006): 675-692.
- Peter A. Coclanis, "Atlantic World or Atlantic/World?," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 63, no. 4 (Oct. 2006): 725-742.

## Paleography:

- Lesson 1

## Assignments:

- Atlantic history essay

**Week 2 (3/23 - 3-27)**

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## Watch:

- *Guns, Germs, & Steel Part I: Out of Eden.*
- *Guns Germs, & Steel Part II: Conquest.*

## Reading:

- Robert W. Strayer, “Political Transformations: Empires and Encounters, 1450-1750,” in *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History. Volume 2: Since 1500* (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2013), 425-457.
- John Thornton, “The Birth of an Atlantic World,” in *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800* 2nd ed. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998), 13-42.

#### Paleography

- Lesson 2.

#### Assignments:

- Guns, Germs & Steel Part I questions.
- Guns, Germs & Steel Part II questions.
- Africa Essay.

### Week 3 (3/30 - 4/3)

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#### Reading:

- Robert W. Strayer, “Economic Transformations: Commerce and Consequences, 1450-1750,” in *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History. Volume 2: Since 1500* (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2013), 459-489.
- Timothy Shannon, “Into the Atlantic Crucible,” in *Atlantic Lives: A Comparative Approach to Early America* (New York: Pearson Longman, 2004), 6-25.
- Timothy Shannon, “The Wooden World: Maritime Labor and Piracy,” in *Atlantic Lives: A Comparative Approach to Early America* (New York: Pearson Longman, 2004), 149-165.

#### Assignments:

- Atlantic Crucible questions.
- The Wood World questions.
- Midterm Exam.

### Week 4 (4/6 - 4/10)

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#### Reading:

- Robert W. Strayer, “Cultural Transformations: Religion and Science, 1450-1750,” in *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History. Volume 2: Since 1500* (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2013), 491-524.
- Catherine Armstrong and Laura Chmielewski, “Exploiting the Atlantic: Trade and Economy,” in *The Atlantic Experience: People, Places, Ideas* (New York: Palgrave Macmillian, 2013), 83-111.
- Catherine Armstrong and Laura Chmielewski, “Atlantic Religion: Beliefs and Behaviors,” in *The Atlantic Experience: People, Places, Ideas* (New York: Palgrave Macmillian, 2013), 112-139.
- Catherine Armstrong and Laura Chmielewski, “Lived Lives and Built Environment: Cultural Transfer in the Greater Atlantic,” in *The Atlantic Experience: People, Places, Ideas* (New York: Palgrave Macmillian, 2013), 140-168.

#### Assignment

- Exploiting the Atlantic questions.
- Atlantic Religion questions.
- Lived Lives Questions.

#### Paleography

- Lesson 3.

### **Week 5 (4/13 - 4/17)**

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#### Reading

- Timothy Shannon, “The Plantation Complex in the Caribbean,” in *Atlantic Lives: A Comparative Approach to Early America* (New York: Pearson Longman, 2004), 85-105.
- Ira Berlin, “From Creole to African: Atlantic Creoles and the Origins of African-American Society in Mainland North America,” *The William and Mary Quarterly*, 53, no. 2 (Apr. 1996): 151-288.

#### Watch

- *Racism: A History Part I: The Colour of Money.*

#### Assignments

- Plantation Complex questions.
- Racism documentary questions.
- Creole to African questions.

#### Paleography

- Lesson 4.

### **Week 6 (4/20 - 4/24)**

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#### Reading

- Robert W. Strayer, “Atlantic Revolutions, Global Echoes: 1750-1914,” in *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History. Volume 2: Since 1500* (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2013), 535-565.
- Jack P. Greene, “The American Revolution;” Susan Dunn, “Sister Revolutions: America and France;” Franklin W. Knight, “The Haitian Revolution;” Jaime E. Rodríguez O., “The Spanish and Spanish American Revolutions,” in *The Atlantic World in the Age of Empire* eds. Thomas Benjamin, Timothy Hall, and David Rutherford (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001), 203-245.
- Reed Ueda, “Pushing the Atlantic Envelope: Interoceanic Perspectives on Atlantic History,” in *The Atlantic in Global History: 1500-2000* eds. Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra and Erik R. Seeman (Uppertsaddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007), 163-174.

#### Assignments:

- Atlantic revolutions essay.
- Pushing the Atlantic envelope questions.

#### Paleography

- Lesson 5.

## **Week 7 (4/27 - 4/30)**

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### Assignments:

- Inventory Primary Source.
- Final Exam.