

HIST 007-20
History of the Atlantic World, 1450-1900

Summer 2015
 MTWRF 1:00-2:30pm
 ICC 208B
 Instructor: Jennifer De Vries
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New England natives greeting Bartholomew Gosnold, 1628

Course Description

Starting in the fifteenth century, the Atlantic Ocean and the four continents bordering it (Europe, Africa, North America and South America) became a zone of intensified interaction: people migrated (most often by force), exchanged goods and pathogens, established new settlements and fought with enemies both old and new. This mixture of interactions transformed societies on all four continents including the land they lived on. This course will introduce students to the connections and exchanges of various peoples in the Atlantic world from approximately 1450 to 1900. Key themes include the migration of people, commodities, disease, war, slavery, abolition, revolution, environment, gender and religion.

Learning Goals

This course has two main goals:

1. To introduce students to the history of the Atlantic World from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century. Students will learn how to analyze and think critically about the major events, themes, and peoples within their historical context.
2. To help students develop the skills needed for historical study:
 - how to analyze primary historical sources
 - how to synthesize primary and secondary material into an analytical paper
 - how to express an analysis clearly in discussion

Course Assignments and Grading

Class Participation

Attendance and participation are crucial to success in this course. Students are required to attend lecture and participate in daily in-class discussions. Students are expected to read the assigned texts before each class. The course readings (on average 15-20 pages per class) will include sections from the textbook(s) and one or more primary sources per day. On days when we read a longer primary source, the in-class discussion will also be longer. We will also watch a few films in class. Your participation mark (30%) requires active and engaged involvement in class discussion.

Papers

Students will write three short papers on topics related to the assigned readings. Each paper will focus on one primary source from *Major Problems in Atlantic History* or another primary source and will provide a close analysis of the text using other course readings as necessary. More information will be posted on Blackboard.

Final Exam

The final exam will be written on the last day of class (August 7, 2015) and is worth 25% of the final grade. The exam will be cumulative and will include both identification and essay questions.

Grading

Participation in class discussion	30%
First paper (2-3 pages)	10%
Second paper (3-4 pages)	15%
Third paper (4-5 pages)	20%
Final Exam	25%

Required Texts

Equiano, Olaudah. *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olandah Equiano*. 2nd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007.

Games, Alison, and Adam Rothman, eds. *Major Problems in Atlantic History: Documents and Essays*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2008.

Zabin, Serena R., and Daniel Horsmanden, eds. *The New York Conspiracy Trials of 1741: Daniel Horsmanden's Journal of the Proceedings with Related Documents*. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martins, 2004.

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard.

Optional Textbook (the readings from this text are optional but are very useful for additional background and/or material for papers)

Egerton, Douglas R, Alison Games, Jane G. Landers, Kris Lane, and Donald R. Wright, eds. *The Atlantic World: A History, 1400-1888*. Wheeling, Ill: Harlan Davidson, Inc, 2007.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to be familiar with Georgetown Honor Code. As students of history, you must know how to make proper citations in your writing; all work should be your own. Please contact me if you have any questions about how to make citations and how to avoid plagiarism. I will report any suspected violations of the Honor Code's policies on plagiarism and academic honesty.

Tentative Course Schedule and Readings

* MPAH = *Major Problems in Atlantic History*

* AW = *Atlantic World: A History, 1400-1888* (suggested textbook readings)

(Pay particular attention to primary source readings marked in **bold** below)

Week 1

July 6: Introduction: What is Atlantic History?

- **MPAH document #7** (in class)

July 7: Major Themes in Atlantic History

- MPAH chapter 1 essay #1,3

- Nicholas Canny and Philip Morgan, “The Making and Unmaking of an Atlantic World” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Atlantic World, 1450-1850*, 1-17.

July 8: The Atlantic pre-1492

- AW, chapter 1
- Maurice Jackson, *Let This Voice Be Heard*, chapter 4.

July 9: The Atlantic pre-1492

- MPAH, chapter 2 essay #1, **documents #1, 6**

July 10: Iberian “discovery” of the Americas

- AW, chapters 2-3

Week 2

Essay One due in class July 13

July 13: Iberian “discovery” of the Americas; Film – tba

- MPAH, chapter 2 **documents #2-5**

July 14: Iberian consolidation and the formation of Atlantic empires

- AW, chapter 4
- MPAH, chapter 3 essay #1, **documents #1-4, 8**

July 15: Iberian consolidation and the formation of Atlantic empires

- MPAH chapter 4 essay #1, **documents #2,4,5**
- **Excerpt from Bartolomé de Las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies***

July 16: Labor and Migration

- AW, chapter 5
- MPAH, chapter 6 **documents #2-4**, chapter 8 essay #1

July 17: Commodities, Pirates, and the Atlantic Economy

- MPAH, chapter 7, essays, **documents #2-5, 8**
- MPAH, chapter 8, essay #2, **documents #1**

Week 3

Essay Two due in class July 20

July 20: Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

- AW, chapter 6 pp. 185-207
- MPAH, chapter 6 **documents #5-8**, chapter 7 **documents #6, 7**

July 21: Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

- **Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, 41-128**

July 22: The Columbian Exchange

- MPAH, chapter 5 essays, **documents 1-4**

July 23: The Columbian Exchange

- MPAH **documents 5-8**
- J.R. McNeill, “The Ecological Atlantic” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Atlantic World, 1450-1850*, 289-304.

July 24: Religion and Culture in the Atlantic World; Film: Black Robe

- AW, chapter 8
- MPAH, chapter 9, essay #2, **documents #1,3,4**

Week 4

Essay Three due in class July 27

July 27: Religion and Culture in the Atlantic World

- **Excerpts from *The Jesuit Relations: Natives and Missionaries in Seventeenth-Century North America*, edited by Allan Greer, 28-69**

July 28: War in the 17th and 18th centuries

- AW, chapter 9
- MPAH, chapter 10, essay #2, **documents #1-5**

July 29: Gender in the Atlantic World

- MPAH, chapter 3 essay #2, chapter 13 essay #2

July 30: Gender in the Atlantic World

- Molina, J. Michelle, and Ulrike Strasser. "Missionary Men and the Global Currency of Female Sanctity." In *Women, Religion, and the Atlantic World (1600-1800)*, edited by Daniella J. Kostroun and Lisa Vollendorf, 156–79. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.
- ***The Jesuit Relations*, pp. 171-185.**

July 31: Slave Revolts and Revolutions in the Atlantic World; Film: *Égalite for All*

- AW, chapter 6 pp. 208-216 and chapter 11
- MPAH, chapter 12, essay #2, **documents #2,3,5**

Week 5

August 3: Slave Revolts and Revolutions in the Atlantic World

- AW, chapters 12 and 13
- **Daniel Horsmanden, *The New York Conspiracy Trials of 1741*, 41-91, 120-147**

August 4: Abolition of the Slave Trade & Slavery

- AW, chapter 14
- MPAH, chapter 13, essay #1, **documents #1,7**

August 5: Abolition of the Slave Trade & Slavery

- Maurice Jackson, "Abolition Movements" in *The Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*, 2nd Edition.
- **Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*, 130-214**

August 6: Legacies of the Atlantic World

- MPAH, chapter 14, essays, **documents #1-5**

August 7: **Final Exam**