

AMH 4110
Early America

Fall 2019
MWF Per. 6 (12:50 – 1:40 pm)
Keene-Flint 105
Instructor: Jon Sensbach, Dept. of History
Office: 233 Keene-Flint
Office hours: MW 2-4:30 and by appointment
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This course will explore political, social, and cultural developments in early America from the pre-Columbian period through the eve of the American Revolution. Through a combination of secondary and primary readings, we will examine the complex cultural interchange and contest for power among Native American, European and African peoples in a variety of settings. Among the topics the course will explore are the impact of European colonization on indigenous nations; the development of distinctive colonial societies in diverse regions; the rise of free and slave labor systems and the evolution of African-American cultures; the role of the Americas in the emergence of transatlantic and global economic and cultural systems; the role of religion in shaping colonial life; and the imperial struggle for power among competing European nations in the American arena.

The following books are required (Townsend, *Pocahontas*; Carney/Rosomoff, *Shadow of Slavery*; Taylor, *Colonial America*; and Godbeer, *Salem Witch Hunt* available at campus bookstore):

Judith A. Carney and Richard Nicholas Rosomoff, *In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa's Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World* (California, 2009).

Colin G. Calloway, *The Scratch of a Pen: 1763 and the Transformation of North America* (Oxford, 2006).

Camilla Townsend, *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma* (Hill and Wang, 2005).

Alan Taylor, *Colonial America: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2015).

Richard Godbeer, *The Salem Witch Hunt: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011).

Marcus Rediker, *Villains of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the Golden Age* (Beacon, 2005).

Additional short primary sources or articles may be assigned on an ad hoc basis during the semester.

Requirements

1. Three reading quizzes on course books. More precisely, there will be quizzes on four books, and you will take three of them. Everyone will take the quiz on Oct. 25 (*Shadow of Slavery*), but you choose two of the other three. The instructor will distribute study questions several weeks in advance.
2. One 5-page paper (double-spaced, 12-pt font, 1-in. margins, due Oct. 2) based on sources and evidence in the *Salem Witch Hunt* text. The instructor will distribute the assignment several weeks in advance.
3. Class attendance and participation. Students are expected to attend class regularly and to keep up with reading assignments, which average about 75 pages per week. The course will be lecture-based about three-quarters of the time, but there will also be a number of class discussions in which students are expected to participate based on course readings. *Attendance policy:* You will be allowed three absences, after which each subsequent absence will result in a drop of half a letter grade in your final average (students who are forced to miss more classes because of serious or chronic medical problems or family emergencies should consult with the instructor). No texting or other use of cells in class, please.
4. There will be one midterm and a final exam, consisting primarily of essay questions.

Your final grade (based on a 10-point scale) will be determined as follows:

Reading quizzes	30% (10% each)
<i>Witch Hunt</i> essay	20
Mid-term exam	20
Final exam	30

Additional information

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course evaluations. Students in this class are participating in the pilot evaluation of the new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF's CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_ufl.bluera.com_ufl_&d=DwIGaQ&c=sJ6xIWYx-zLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=1qtWVKU2uNohMAWR5pYYVuoF_ty9jxk4wI-DcSEfmKub76k8eaDIYyGQkZMpCQZ6&m=KCQMaruvDccGkQ95LBWWejChKpHpd3olzGps63zooAo&s=2ryllkiSd2MT9xMTXgaRslOLmzE7-Mky8W2E_HUO3wQ&e= . Please note your other classes this semester may be evaluated in the current GatorRater online evaluation system at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu><<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/>> . Thank you for serving as a partner in this important effort.

Schedule

Week 1. Aug. 21-23. Early America: An Introduction

Week 2. Aug. 26-30. First Contacts

Reading: Taylor, *Colonial America*, Introduction and chap. 1

Week 3. (Labor Day holiday Mon., Sept. 2). Sept. 4-6. The colonization scramble

Reading: Taylor, *Colonial America*, chaps. 2-3

Week 4. Sept. 9-13. Native American responses

Reading quiz: Townsend, *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma*, Wed., Sept. 11

Week 5. Sept. 16-20. English Colonial Counterpoint: Chesapeake and New England

Taylor, *Colonial America*, chaps. 4-5; begin reading *Salem Witch Hunt* for paper due Oct. 2.

Week 6. Sept. 23-27. Colonial expansion and the “Atlantic World”

Week 7. Sept. 30 – Oct. 2 (Homecoming holiday Fri., Oct. 4). Witchcraft on trial

***Salem Witch Hunt* papers due Wed., Oct. 2.**

Week 8. (Instructor absence Mon., Oct. 7 – no class). Oct. 9-11.

MIDTERM Fri., Oct. 11

Week 9. Oct. 14-18. Slavery and the Rise of the Plantation Machine

Reading: Taylor, *Colonial America*, chap. 6

Week 10. Oct. 21-25. From Africa to America

Reading quiz: Carney and Rosomoff, *In the Shadow of Slavery*, Fri., Oct. 25.

Week 11. Oct. 28 – Nov. 1. Environment and Religion in Early America

Week 12. Nov. 4-6 (instructor absence Fri., Nov. 8). Rebels of the Atlantic

Reading quiz: Rediker, *Villains of All Nations*, Wed., Nov. 6

Week 13. (Mon., Nov. 11 – Veterans Day holiday). Nov. 13-15. A Contested Continent

Week 14. Nov. 18-22. The Colonial World on the Eve of Revolution

Reading quiz: Calloway, *Scratch of a Pen*, Fri., Nov. 22.

Week 15. Nov. 25. TBA

Thanksgiving 11/28

Week 16. Dec. 2-4. Conclusions

Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 11, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m., same room