

Syllabus: HIST 55200, Colonial America
Purdue University Northwest
Summer II 2022: 6/13/22 – 8/5/22
Online Asynchronous
(Detailed assignments, notes, and study questions posted on Brightspace)

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OH by appointment via Zoom – contact professor for link
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GRADING:

Quizzes and Assignments – students will have to complete 12 quizzes (60% of grade) and complete four assignments (40% of grade). The assignments will ask students to reflect upon how they would teach the material and to develop lesson plans, powerpoints, lectures, and reading/literature/film guides.

OBJECTIVES: As an upper level course, this class seeks to introduce students to major schools of thought (and the most well-known historians) regarding contact, colonization, and social life in the North American colonies. Students will selectively synthesize information from the readings into short, in-class written responses. On biweekly quizzes, students will demonstrate their ability to identify key persons, places, and events named in the readings and lectures. I include topics from periods 1-3 in APUSH.

BOOKS (Dual Credit Indiana should provide these titles):

Alan Taylor, American Colonies

David Hackett Fischer, African Founders: How Enslaved People Expanded American Ideals

Nathaniel Philbrick, Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War

TOPICS:

UNIT 1: How did commercial and imperial rivalry drive colonization?

- How did Columbus' introduction of sugar cane plantations impact the Americas?
- How did European privateers influence early English Colonization?

Main Reading: Heather Pringle, "Sugar Masters in a New World," *Smithsonian Magazine*; David Cordingly, *Under the Black Flag*, ch. 2.

UNIT 2: Why did groups of Africans and Indians aid or resist Spanish colonization?

- Why did most Spanish explorers of the Southwest end up dead?
- Why did the Pueblo revolt?

Main Reading: Taylor, *American Colonies*, chaps. 3 ("New Spain, 1500–1600") and 4 ("The Spanish Frontier, 1530–1700"), except for pp. 83–90 ("The New Mexico Missions" and "The Pueblo Revolt"); James Axtell, "The Spanish Incursion," in *Natives and Newcomers: The Cultural Origins of North America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), chap. 9, pp. 217–232, with endnotes at pp. 382–387.

UNIT 3: How did enslaved people in frontier communities negotiate terms of partial freedom?

- How did enslaved Africans in Spanish Florida, colonial Virginia, and Dutch New Amsterdam acquire land and partial freedom?

Main Reading: Fischer, *African Founders*, selected chapters.

UNIT 4: How did the British settlers of Massachusetts and Virginia settle among Indian peoples?

- What strained Powhatan-English relations, and how did this hostility contribute to the Starving time?
- Why did the Wampanoags help the Pilgrims?

Main Reading: Taylor, *American Colonies*, ch. 6; Nathaniel Philbrick, *Mayflower*, first half.

UNIT 5: How did colonists' population growth and demand for more lands drive frontier warfare in the late 17th century?

- Explain the causes of King Philip's War.

- How were the origins of Bacon's Rebellion similar to King Philip's War? How different?

Main Reading: Taylor, *American Colonies*, ch. 9 (recommended); Nathaniel Philbrick, *Mayflower*, second half.

UNIT 6: How did women challenge gender conventions in the British colonies?

- Why was Anne Hutchinson banished and Mary Dyer hanged?
- How did women lose rights when New Amsterdam became New York?

Main Reading: Eve LaPlante, *American Jezebel*, selection and Patricia Cleary, "Women's Sphere of Trade in Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia and New York"

UNIT 7: How did pluralism in the Middle Colonies impact their commercial development?

- What brought Jews to Early America?
- What explains Philadelphia's rapid growth as a major port city and booming trade center? How does Benjamin Franklin try to change Philadelphia in the late 1740s?

Main Reading: Taylor, *American Colonies*, ch. 12; Rock, "Jews in New Amsterdam"; McMahon, "Franklin, Philadelphia, and the Progress of Cities"

UNIT 8: What caused colonists to devolve into hysteria and 'witch hunts'?

- How did Abenaki raids on the Maine Frontier create hysteria in Salem?
- How did fear of a slave revolt result in the burning of suspected Black conspirators in New York City in 1741?

Main Reading: Mary Beth Norton, "The Salem Witchcraft Trials" in *Wish I'd Been There*; Jill Lepore, *New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery, Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan* (New York: Vintage, 2005), selected chapters.

UNIT 9: How did tobacco culture create an aristocracy of planters?

- How did the gentry shape the law to favor themselves?
- How did the lower sort challenge the planters' hegemony?

Main Reading: Taylor, *American Colonies*, ch. 7; Breen, T. H. "Horses and Gentlemen: The Cultural Significance of Gambling among the Gentry of Virginia." *The William and Mary Quarterly* 34, no. 2 (1977): 239–57.

UNIT 10: What were some examples of colonists' resistance to mercantilist policies prior to 1763?

- What happened at the mast tree riot of 1724?
- How did a British press gangs cause the Boston Riot of 1747?

Main Reading: Jack Tager, *Boston Riots: Three Centuries of Social Violence*, selected chapters; Pauline Maier, *From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition*, selection.

UNIT 11: How did the Seven Years War Make America?

- Why was the Ohio Valley contested and by whom?
- How was Seven Years War a turning point that led the colonies closer to war with England?

Main Reading: Taylor, *American Colonies*, ch. 18; Fred Anderson, "Real First World War and the Making of America"; Anderson, "Consequences of Victory" in *Major Problems in Colonial America*

UNIT 12: Where did early expressions of 'natural liberty' come from?

- How did Crispus Attucks become radicalized?
- How did Patrick Henry challenge the monarchy during the 'Parson's Cause' court case?

Main Reading: Thomas Kidd, *Patrick Henry: First Among Patriots*, selection and Mitch Kachun, *First Martyr of Liberty*, selection.