History 3301E: COLONIAL BRITISH AMERICA

Tuesday 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm, STVH 1119
Note: STVH = Stevenson Lawson Hall

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Course Description: This seminar explores the establishment of English colonies in America, conflict and relations with Native Americans, the enslavement of Africans, and European migration to the colonies. The course examines the political, social, and cultural development of the colonies through the American Revolution and the formation of the United States of America to 1800.

Seminars are arranged in rough chronological order and focus on specific themes and historiographical debates. The primary focus will be on culture and society, but economic, military, and political history will also be explored.

Learning Objectives:
After completing the course, students will be able to:

- identify major events, concepts and personalities concerned with exploration, invasion and early settlement of colonial British America, 1550-1600; intercolonial differences and British Atlantic integration, 1660-1750; the American Revolution and the formation of the American republic, 1750-1800.
- analyze different historical perspectives (e.g. diverse indigenous and settler groups), and describe contemporary viewpoints (e.g. about race, gender roles, social orders, religion, political values).
- examine how British imperial expansion, integration and disintegration occurred within a context of international competition, ideas, and movements (e.g. New France, New Spain comparison).
- solve research problems by identifying a topic, refining it to a significant and answerable historical question, determining the essential components of the argument, organizing the parts of the essay, and drawing conclusions.
- analyze short primary source texts, utilizing them in writing a research essay.
- analyze secondary sources, including their sources, methods, argument, strengths, limitations, potential implications and significance for the field; and use secondary sources to consider why questions asked and topics studied by historians have changed over time.
**Marking Scheme:**

Seminar Presentation: 10%
Book Review: 10%. Due October 22, 2013.
Final Paper: 30%. Due April 8.
Workshop Presentation and Commentating: 10%
Participation: 20%

**Required Texts:**


All other readings will be available using JSTOR or will be provided by the instructor.

**Prerequisite(s):** 1.0 course in History at the 2200 level or above.*

A note on prerequisite: “Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.” (http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines_undergrad.pdf issued 2011 02)

**Course Requirements:**

**Seminar Presentation:** Each student is required to select a seminar of particular interest to them and give a 15 to 20 minute presentation providing context and background for the readings. The presenter will then begin the seminar discussion by posing thoughtful questions or ideas to the class. Students must submit a bibliography outlining their sources. Ideally, students should try to match their seminar presentation with their topic for the major essay.

**Book Review:** Students will choose from a list of scholarly monographs (or choose their own with the instructor’s approval) and write a concise five (5) page review. Reviews must evaluate the main argument, the historian’s evidence and use of sources, discuss strengths and shortcomings of the work, and place the monograph within the wider historiography of the subject. A handout and further instruction will be provided in class. **DUE: Oct. 22.**
**Historiographical Paper:** Students must write a fifteen (15) page essay exploring the historiography of their intended major essay topic. The essay must identify the major scholarly works that have shaped the study of the topic and the key questions historians have attempted to answer. Students are encouraged to include their own arguments that will help them place their final paper within the historiography. More information and guidance will be provided by the instructor in class. **Due: Dec. 3.**

**Final Paper and Workshop:** Students will compose a 6000 word (approx. 24 page) formal essay based on primary sources. Each student must circulate their paper to the class and present a condensed version in seminar during the final month of the course. One student will be assigned to critique and comment on the paper. Students may then revise their papers and submit them by April 8.

**ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT:** NO STUDENT WILL PASS THE COURSE WHO HAS MORE THAN SIX UNEXCUSED ABSENCES. AN ABSENCE MAY ONLY BE EXCUSED BY A RECOMMENDATION FROM ACADEMIC COUNSELLING.

**Late Papers/Extensions:**
Under normal circumstances, late papers will be accepted no later than 7 days (one week) after the deadline, and late papers will be graded with a deduction of 2% per day. Late papers must only be submitted to the History Department office (Lawson Hall Room 2201) drop-box, so that they can be officially date stamped. Do not slide papers under the instructor’s door.

**Academic Accommodation on Medical Grounds:**
Students are reminded that academic accommodation on medical grounds can in most instances only be granted if supported by a University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate. This form can be accessed at the following website: [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf) or be picked up at the Academic Counselling Office in the student’s home faculty. (For Social Science students 2105 SSC.) For the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, see [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm). All medical documentation should be taken to Academic Counselling.

**Academic Accommodation on Non-Medical Grounds:**
If a student is absent from class, the absence may be excused only if so recommended by an academic counselor.

A student who is absent from class may choose to email the instructor with comments, questions and observations about the assigned readings. This email can be considered for participation points in lieu of oral participation that class (if sent within one week of the missed class). This will earn participation points only in the case of an excused absence.

If a student is absent on a day on which his/her oral presentation is scheduled, and academic counselling recommends that the absence be excused (for medical or non-medical reasons), then the oral presentation will be rescheduled for the next possible class without penalty. If a student is absent for his/her oral presentation and academic counselling does not recommend academic accommodation in this case, then the student will earn a 0 for that oral
assignment. In any event the student is encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss the content of the presentation.

Documentation for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation is typically required in this course, and any such documentation must be submitted by the student to the faculty academic counselors.

IMPORTANT NOTES/WEBSITES:

Students should read carefully and thoroughly the Faculty of Social Science “Instructions for Students Registered in Social Science Who are Unable to Write Tests or Examinations or Submit Assignments as Scheduled” and “Plagiarism” statement. See attached.

They should also be aware of the Registrar’s deadlines. Websites for Registrarial Services: http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca

The Student Development Centre (SDC) services: http://www.sdc.uwo.ca

For information related to accessibility, including accessible routes, temporary service disruptions, and university policies related to accessibility issues, see Western’s Accessibility Website: www.accessibility.uwo.ca/students.index.htm

Services for Students with Disabilities in the Student Development Centre: http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd or ssd@uwo.ca 519-661-2111 x82147

History Department: www.ssc.uwo.ca/history

Statement on Academic Offences:

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.”

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines_undergrad.pdf issued 2011 02]  

Plagiarism:

“Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar.)”

Students may be asked to submit research notes, so students should keep all research notes for all assignments in this course until after they have obtained their final grade for the course. Read carefully the attached statement on plagiarism, and ask your instructor if you have questions.
Remember to back up all notes and coursework both on your computer and externally (e.g. external backup system, paper copy, and/or email files to yourself), including research notes and drafts of essays.

**Seminar Schedule**

**Semester I**

1. **Sept. 10/13: Course Introduction**

2. **Sept. 17/13: A Brief Introduction to Colonial America**
   

3. **Sept. 24/13: Contact**


   Fischer, *Albion’s Seed*, 3-205.

5. **Oct. 8/13: Virginia: Servants and Planters**

   Fischer, *Albion’s Seed*, 207-418.

6. **Oct.15/13: Delaware and the Backcountry**

   Fischer, *Albion’s Seed*, Complete.

7. **Oct. 22: Native/Settler Conflict**

   Book Review Due.


8. Oct. 29: Colonial Slavery


9. Nov. 5: Women in Colonial America


10. Nov. 12: Witchcraft


11. Nov. 19: The Great Awakening


Selected Sermons

**12. Nov. 26: Merchants, Markets, and Consumers**


**13. Dec. 3: Historiographical Paper Due.**

**Semester II**

**14. Jan. 7/14: Finding and Using Primary Sources**

Library Tutorial with UWO Librarian Elizabeth Mantz. Room: TBD.

**15. Jan. 14/14: Gentility and Manners**


16. Jan. 21/14: The Seven Years’ War in North America


17. Jan. 28/14: The Popular Revolution


18. Feb. 4/14: The American Revolution I


Thomas Paine, Common Sense (1776)

Charles Inglis, The True Interest of America Impartially Stated (1776)

Other Pamphlets and Newspapers to be explored in class.


22. Mar. 11/14: Workshop
23. Mar. 18/14: Workshop
24. Mar. 25/14: Workshop
25. Apr. 1/14: Workshop

26. Apr. 8: All papers due.