

**Graduate Readings in Early America**  
**HIGR 265A**  
**University of California, San Diego**  
Fall 2016  
Wednesdays 10:00-12:50

Professor Mark Hanna

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This graduate seminar explores the historiography of early America. Since what constitutes “early America” is in dispute, we begin with that debate. While the emphasis in this course is on the historiographical development over the course of the twentieth century, rather than on the “hottest” work of the past few years, certain recent trends emerge on this syllabus: the interest on global or at least transatlantic approaches and the rise of both cultural history and what some scholars call the “new political history.” At the end of the semester, you should be conversant in the primary debates in the field, its major development, and the varied methods used by historians. You should also be competent in writing historiography.

Assignments

\*At our first meeting I will ask you to sign up for a week to present one of the suggested readings and how that reading contrasts with the assigned work. You will write a 6-8 page book review and you will be asked to give a ten to fifteen minute oral presentation of the work. Please bring copies of your reviews for each member of the class.

\*Write a one-page synopsis of the primary reading for each week.

\*At our first meeting I will ask you to sign up for a week to solve a “mystery.” I will give you a question and you will report back to the class the answer and, more importantly, how you found the answer. For example, I might ask you how long would it take to sail from Jamaica to New York City in 1680?

\*For each book we read, I would like you to follow at least one footnote.

\*You will also be required to write a 15-20 page historiographical essay due on the last day of class (December 7) on a particular sub-field of early American history.

## Readings

Most of the readings will focus on particular topics and will not cover a grand scope. If you would like some background help see:

Alan Taylor, *American Colonies* (2001)

Peter Charles Hoffer, *The Brave New World* (2006)

D.W. Meinig, *The Shaping of America* (1986)

Daniel Vickers, ed., *A Companion to Colonial America* (2003)

*The Oxford History of the British Empire*

Keith Wrightson, *English Society, 1580-1680* (1982)

W. J. Eccles, *The French in North America, 1500-1765* (1998)

Edward Countryman, *The American Revolution*

## **Class Schedule**

[Required reading in bold font]

Week One (09/28): Where is Early American History?

**Forum: Beyond the Atlantic, *The William and Mary Quarterly* (October, 2006): 675-742.**

**<http://www.jstor.org/stable/i404904>**

**Eric Hinderaker and Rebecca Horn, "Territorial Crossings: Histories and Historiographies of the Early Americas," *The William and Mary Quarterly* (July 2010): 395-432. [Use History Cooperative]**

**<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5309/willmaryquar.67.3.395>**

Suggested Reading:

Bernard Bailyn and Philip Morgan, *Strangers within the Realm: Cultural Margins of the First British Empire*

Bernard Bailyn, *The Peopling of British North America*

Bernard Bailyn, ed. *Soundings in Atlantic History: Latent Structures and Intellectual Currents*

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *The Americas: A Hemispheric History*

David Armitage, ed., *The British Atlantic World, 1500-1800*

Elizabeth Mancke, ed., *The Creation of the British Atlantic World*

Multiple authors, "Entangled Empires in the Atlantic World" *American Historical Review* (June 2006)

Week Two (10/05): Contact and Cultures

**William Cronon: *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England***

**Forum: Colonial Historians and American Indians, *WMQ* (July 2012)**

Suggested Reading:

Steven Hackel, *Children of Coyote, Missionaries of Saint Francis*

Ralph Bauer, ed., *Creole Subjects in the Colonial Americas*

Tzvetan Todorov, *The Conquest of America*  
 Ramon Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away*  
 James Brooks, *Captives & Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands*  
 David Roberts, *The Pueblo Revolt: The Secret Rebellion That Drove the Spaniards out of the Southwest*  
 John Demos, *The Unredeemed Captive*  
 W. J. Eccles, *The Canadian Frontier, 1534-1760*  
 Gregory H. Nobles, *American Encounters*  
 David Weber, *The Spanish Frontier in North America*  
 Daniel Richter, *Facing East from Indian Country*  
 Richard White, *The Middle Ground*  
 James Merrell, *Into the American Woods*  
 James Axtell, *Beyond 1492, Encounters in Colonial North America*  
 Francis Jennings, *The Invasion of America: Indians, Colonialism, and the Cant of Conquest*  
 Lisa Voigt, *Writing Captivity in the Early Modern Atlantic: Circulations of Knowledge and Authority in the Iberian and English Imperial Worlds*  
 Claudio Veliz, *The New World of the Gothic Fox: Culture and Economy in English and Spanish America*  
 James Lang, *Conquest and Commerce: Spain and England in the Americas*  
 Jonathan Hart, *Comparing Empires: European Colonialism from Portuguese Expansion to the Spanish-American War*

Week Three (10/12): Historical Morality

**Thomas Bender, ed. *The Anti-Slavery Debates: Capitalism and Abolitionism as a Problem in Historical Interpretation***

Suggested Reading:

Robin Blackburn, *The Overthrow of Colonial Slavery, 1776-1848*  
 David Eltis, ed., *Routes to Slavery: Directions, Ethnicity and Morality in the Atlantic Slave Trade*  
 David Brion Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1779-1823*  
 David Brion Davis, *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World*  
 Christopher Brown, *Moral Capital: Foundations of British Abolitionism*  
 Gary B. Nash, *The Forgotten Fifth*  
 Gary B. Nash, *Freedom by Degrees: Emancipation in Pennsylvania and its Aftermath*  
 Adam Hochschild, *Bury the Chains*  
 Vincent Carretta, *Equiano, The African: Biography of a Self-Made Man*  
 Cassandra Pybus, *Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and their Global Quest for Liberty*  
 Walter Johnson, *Soul By Soul: Life inside the Antebellum Slave Market*  
 Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*

Week Four (10/19): Human Capital

**Stephanie Smallwood, *Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora***

**Walter Johnson, "On Agency," in *Journal of Social History* (Fall, 2003), 113-124.**

Suggested Reading:

David Brion Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture*

John Thornton and Linda Heywood, *Central Africans, Atlantic Creoles, and the making of the Foundation of the Americas, 1585-1660*

Ira Berlin, *Many Thousand's Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*

Richard Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves: The Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies, 1624-1713*

Rachel Klein, *The Unification of the Slave State: The Rise of the Planter Class in the South Carolina Backcountry, 1760-1808*

Jill Lepore, *New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery, and Conspiracy in Eighteenth Century Manhattan*

Philip Morgan, *Slave Counterpoint*

Allan Kulikoff, *Tobacco & Slaves: The Development of Southern Cultures in the Chesapeake*

Robin Blackburn, *The Making of New World Slavery*

Peter Wood, *Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 Through the Stono Rebellion*

Marcus Rediker, *The Slave Ship*

Lorena Walsh, *Motives of Honor, Pleasure, & Profit*

Robin Blackburn, *The Making of New World Slavery*

Week Five (10/26): Dealing with Darkness

**Mary Beth Norton: *In the Devil's Snare: The Salem Witchcraft Crisis***

**Selections from *William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 65, no. 3, (2008): 391-534**

Suggested Reading:

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich: *Good Wives*

Cornelia Dayton, *Women Before the Bar*

Carol Karlsen, *The Devil in the Shape of a Woman*

Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs*

John Demos, *Circles and Lines*

John Demos, *Entertaining Satan: Witchcraft and the Culture of Early New England*

Marion Gibson, *Witchcraft and Society in England and America, 1550-1750*

Jane Kamensky, *Governing the Tongue: The Politics of Speech in Early New England*

Mary Beth Norton, *Founding Mothers and Fathers: Gendered Power in the Forming of American Society*

Peter Silver, *Our Savage Neighbors: How Indian War Transformed Early America*

Jill Lepore, *The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity*

Cornelia Dayton, *Women Before the Bar: Gender, Law & Society in Connecticut, 1639-1789*

Week Six (11/02): The Pacific  
David Igler, *The Great Ocean*

Week Seven (11/09): The Sea  
**Jonathan Eacott, *Selling Empire***

Suggested Reading:

Marcus Rediker, *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: Merchant Seamen, Pirates, and the Anglo-American World, 1700-1750*

Rediker and Linebaugh, *The Many-Headed Hydra*

Jeffrey Bolster, *Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail*

T.H. Breen, *The Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence*

Daniel Vickers, *Farmers and Fishermen*

Jon Latimer, *Buccaneers of the Caribbean: How Piracy Forged an Empire*

Margaret Ellen Newell, *From Dependency to Independence, Economic Revolution in Colonial New England*

John McCusker & Russell Menard, *The Economy of British America, 1607-1789*

Gary B. Nash, *The Urban Crucible: Social Change, Political Consciousness, and the Origins of the American Revolution*

Christopher Hill, *Liberty Against the Law*

Eric Hobsbawm, *Bandits*

E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*

E.P. Thompson, *Customs in Common: Studies in Traditional Popular Culture*

Andrews, Kenneth, *Trade, Plunder, and Settlement: Maritime Enterprise and the Genesis of the British Empire, 1480-1630*

Week Eight (11/16): Revolution

**-Gordon Wood: "Rhetoric and Reality in the American Revolution"**

**-T.H. Breen "Baubles of Britain": The American Consumer Revolutions of the Eighteenth Century.**

**-Alfred Young, "George Robert Twelves Hewes: A Boston Shoemaker and the Memory of the Revolution"**

**-Edmund Morgan, "Slavery and Freedom: The American Paradox," *Journal of American History* (1972)**

**-Maya Jasanoff, "The Other Side of Revolution: Loyalists in the British Empire" *The William and Mary Quarterly* (April, 2008): 205-232.**

Suggested Reading:

Gary B. Nash, *The Urban Crucible: The Northern Seaports and the Origins of the American Revolution*

Gordon Wood, *The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin*

Joyce Chaplin, *The First Scientific American: Benjamin Franklin and the Pursuit of Genius*

Margaret Newell, *From Dependency to Independence: Economic Revolution in Colonial New England*

Bernard Bailyn, *The Ordeal of Thomas Hutchinson*  
Bernard Bailyn, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*  
Edward Countryman, *The American Revolution*  
Alfred Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party*  
Patricia Bonomi, *Under the Cope of Heaven, Religion, Society, and Politics in Colonial America*  
Joseph Ellis, *Founding Brothers, The Revolutionary Generation*  
Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation 1707-1837*  
Charles Royster, *A Revolutionary People at War: The Continental Army & American Character, 1775-1783*  
Gordon Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*  
Benjamin Carp, *Rebels Rising: Cities and the American Revolution*  
Eliga Gould, *Persistence of Empire: British Political Culture in the Age of Revolution*  
Maya Jasanoff, *Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World*

Week Nine (11/23): Good Wives

**Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale***

**Jan Lewis, "The Republican Wife: Virtue and Seduction in the Early Republic," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 44 (1987), pp. 689-721**

Suggested Reading:

Alan Taylor, *Liberty Men and Great Proprietors: The Revolutionary Settlement on the Maine Frontier*  
Philip Deloria, *Playing Indian*  
Linda Kerber, *Women of the Republic: Intellect & Ideology in Revolutionary America*  
Robert Gross, *The Minutemen and Their World*  
Jay Fliegelman, *Prodigals and Pilgrims: The American Revolution Against Patriarchal Authority*  
Sarah Knott, *Sensibility and the American Revolution*  
Theda Perdue, *Cherokee Women: Gender and Culture Change, 1700-1835*  
Nancy Cott, *The Bonds of Womanhood*  
Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America*  
Annette Gordon-Reed, *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy*  
Mary Beth Norton, *Founding Mothers and Fathers*  
Richard Godbeer, *Sexual Revolution in Early America*  
Catherine Allgor, *A Perfect Union: Dolly Madison and the Creation of the American Nation*  
Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *The Age of Homespun*  
Richard Bushman, *The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities*

Week Ten (11/30): Race and Revolution

**Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution***

Suggested Reading:

David Geggus, ed., *The World of the Haitian Revolution*  
David Geggus, *The Impact of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World*

Matthew Clavin, *Toussaint Louverture and the American Civil War: The Promise and Peril of a Second Haitian Revolution*  
John Garrigus, *Before Haiti: Race and Citizenship in French Saint-Domingue*  
Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution*  
Carolyn Fick, *The Making of Haiti: The Saint Domingue Revolution from Below*  
Susan Dunn, *Sister Revolutions: French Lightning, American Light*  
Sylvia Frey, *Water from a Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age*  
C.L.R. James: *The Black Jacobins*  
Douglas Egerton, *Gabriel's Rebellion*

**\*\*Assignment: Final Historiography Paper Due Before Class\*\***

Finals Week (TBA): Meet at Porter's Pub