

HISTORY 332  
Fall 2011  
T 1:00-3:55, Sills 209

McMahon  
S11 Hubbard Hall (basement)  
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### **Community in America, Maine, and at Bowdoin**

In this history “problems” course, we will explore the ideals and social, economic, political, and cultural realities of community in American history, and examine continuity, change, and socio-economic, racial, and ethnic diversity in community experience. We will begin by examining studies of communities in seventeenth-century Massachusetts and early national upstate New York. We will then sharpen our focus on Maine and on Bowdoin College and its midcoast neighborhood, working with readings in both the secondary literature and a wealth of primary sources.

*Course expectations and requirements:* The course will be held as a seminar, meeting once a week for three hours. For the first five weeks of the semester, our discussions will focus on community history. After fall break, we will turn for three weeks to the history of Bowdoin College. Students are encouraged to purchase the assigned books from the bookstore; a copy of each book is on reserve in the library. In addition, students are encouraged but not required to explore the further readings for each class meeting—primary sources (documents) and/or secondary sources (articles or chapters). Those reading assignments are available either on e-reserve through the *Library Reserves* link on *Blackboard* or by link to an online source or database from the *History 332 Reading Guide* on *Blackboard*. The *Reading Guide* also provides questions to help focus your reading. In preparation for each class meeting, students should read *and* begin to analyze the assigned texts; they should come to class with specific questions and some preliminary answers. By reading and participating in class discussions, students should develop an understanding of the research process and practice the analytical skills that they will use to pursue independent research in history. If a student misses a class meeting, the student is expected to write a 3-4 page analysis of the readings for that class. Class participation counts for 40% of the final grade.

Throughout the semester, students will engage in the process of designing and pursuing their own primary research projects. Early in the semester, each student will begin to formulate a thesis question and a preliminary hypothesis about some aspect of community history. In early November, students will submit a research paper prospectus which presents a preliminary thesis statement or hypothesis, a brief annotated bibliography of the primary and secondary sources that they will analyze, and a preliminary outline. For the last five weeks of the course, as students pursue their independent research projects, class meetings will rotate between small group discussions, individual conferences, and work-in-progress presentations. A draft of a section of the paper will be due in late November. The research paper (22-25 pages) will be due on the scheduled final-exam date for the course. Research methodology and process count for 30%, and the essay counts for 30% of the final grade.

All students are expected to read, understand, and abide by the Bowdoin College Academic Honor Code and by the rules of citation described on the Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin Academic Honesty Site at <http://library.bowdoin.edu/1st/CBBhonesty.shtml>.

*Course texts:*

Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, *Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft* (1974)

Alan Taylor, *William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic* (1996)

Maureen Elgersman Lee, *Black Bangor: African Americans in a Maine Community, 1880-1950* (2005)

Charles Calhoun, *A Small College in Maine: Two Hundred Years of Bowdoin* (1993)

All online resources are available through Blackboard and/or the History 332 website:

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/faculty/S/smcmahon/courses/hist332/>

1. 9/6 INTRODUCTION: Historical visions and sociological models of community  
 Readings: Thomas Bender, Ch. 1, "Introduction: The Meanings of Community," Ch. 2, "Social Theory and the Problem of Community," 3-43. [Optional: Ch. 3, "Community in American History," 45-120], in Bender, *Community and Social Change in America* (1978). (e-reserve)  
 David J. Russo, "Introduction," "The Little Community: Towns (and Rural Areas Too?)," in Russo, *Families and Communities: A New View of American History* (1974), 1-51. (e-reserve)  
 Darrett Rutman, "Assessing the Little Communities of Early America," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d ser. XLIII (1986), 163-178. (JSTOR)  
  
 Document: John Winthrop, "A Modell of Christian Charity" (1630), *Hanover Historical Texts Project* (LINK) or *The Winthrop Society* (LINK)
  
2. 9/13 NEW ENGLAND COMMUNITIES: Witchcraft as a community phenomenon  
 Reading: Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, *Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft* (1974)  
*Guidelines for Writing a Research Paper in History* (Blackboard or course website LINK)  
  
 Further reading (crafting a thesis and argument): Mary Beth Norton, "George Burroughs and the Girls from Casco: The Maine Roots of Salem Witchcraft," *Maine History* 40.4 (Winter 2001-2002), 259-277. (e-reserve)  
  
 Documents: Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, eds., *Salem Witchcraft Papers: Verbatim Transcripts of the Legal Documents*, 3 volumes (sample the transcripts)  
 or Bernard Rosenthal, ed., *Records of the Salem Witch-hunt* (2009) (sample the records)
  
3. 9/20 SALEM REPOSSESSED: Contrasting perspectives and analyses  
 Reading: *Forum*: Salem Repossessed, *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd series 65.3 (July 2008), 391-534.
  
4. 9/27 THE FRONTIER IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC: Community, biography, fiction, myth  
 Reading: Alan Taylor, *William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic* (1996)  
*Note*: read Introduction, Chapters 1-4, 8, 10, 13-15 (pp. 3-114, 199-228, 256-291, 346-427); skim chapters 5-7, 9, 11, 12  
  
 Further readings (historical myths, stories, and narratives): David Hackett Fischer, *Paul Revere's Ride* (1994), Introduction: Paul Revere Remounted; Historiography: Myths After the Midnight Ride, xiii-xviii, 327-344. (e-reserve)  
 William Cronon, "A Place for Stories: Nature, History, and Narrative," *Journal of American History* 78 (March 1992), 1347-1376. (JSTOR)
  
5. 10/4 AN AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MAINE: Uncovering communities within communities  
 Reading: Maureen Elgersman Lee, *Black Bangor: African Americans in a Maine Community, 1880-1950* (2005)  
  
 Further reading: H.H. Price and Gerald E. Talbot, *Maine's Visible Black History: The First Chronicle of Its People* (2006)  
 Maureen Elgersman Lee, "'What They Lack in Numbers': Locating Black Portland, 1870-1930," in Joseph A. Conforti, ed., *Creating Portland: History and Place in Northern New England* (2005), 218-246.

6. 10/11 FALL VACATION: No class meeting

10/13 LIBRARY TOUR AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES: Ginny Hopcroft

Further readings: Ellen Somekawa and Elizabeth Smith, "Theorizing the Writing of History Or, 'I Can't Think Why It Should Be So Dull, For a Great Deal of It Must Be Invention',"

*Journal of Social History* 22.1 (1988), 149-161. (Academic Search Premier)

Robert Dykstra and William Silag, "Doing Local History: Monographic Approaches to the Smaller Community," *American Quarterly* 37.3 (1985), 411-425. (JSTOR)

T.J. Jackson Lears, "Power, Culture, and Memory," *Journal of American History* 75.1 (1988), 137-40. (JSTOR)

More further readings: Lorena S. Walsh, "The Historian as Census Taker: Individual Reconstitution and the Reconstruction of Censuses for a Colonial Chesapeake County," *William and Mary Quarterly* 38.2 (1981), 242-260. (JSTOR)

Darrett Rutman, "New England as Idea and Society Revisited," *William and Mary Quarterly* 41.1 (1984), 56-61. (JSTOR)

Ellen Fitzpatrick, "Caroline F. Ware and the Cultural Approach to History," *American Quarterly* 43.2 (1991), 173-198. (JSTOR)

7. 10/18 BOWDOIN COLLEGE: The beginnings

Reading: Charles Calhoun, *A Small College in Maine: Two Hundred Years of Bowdoin* (1993), Introduction, Chapters 1-3, xiii-99.

Friday, Oct. 21: Individual Conferences to discuss research prospectuses

8. 10/27 BOWDOIN COLLEGE: 1810-1865

Reading: Charles Calhoun, *A Small College in Maine: Two Hundred Years of Bowdoin* (1993), Chapters 4-6, 100-185.

Friday, Oct. 28: Individual Conferences to discuss research prospectuses

9. 11/1 BOWDOIN COLLEGE: 1865-1990s

Reading: Charles Calhoun, *A Small College in Maine: Two Hundred Years of Bowdoin* (1993), Chapters 7-9, 186-255.

*Research Paper Prospectus Due* Friday, Nov. 4

10. 11/10 SMALL GROUP MEETINGS: work-in-progress discussions

11. 11/17 SMALL GROUP MEETINGS: work-in-progress discussions

12. 11/22 INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES: discuss research and writing progress

*Penultimate draft due:* Introduction and a section of the research essay

13. 11/29 SMALL GROUP MEETINGS: work-in-progress discussions

14. 12/6 FINAL CLASS MEETING: work-in-progress presentations

*Research Paper Due:* Monday, Dec. 19, 2011, 5:00 p.m.