

Hist1340:

AMERICA AND THE ORIGINS OF GLOBALIZATION

Professor: Strother Roberts

Meeting Time: T/Th 1:15-2:40pm

Room: Pickering Room, Hubbard 2nd Floor

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Office: Dudley Coe 304

Office Hours: Mon 1-2; Wed 1-3



Course Description: From the 15th century through the early 19th, global economic forces integrated the lands, ecosystems, and communities of North America into an increasingly tightly-knit network of commerce, migration, and ideas. Topics covered while exploring these early global networks will include: the spread of peoples, crops, and diseases; the role of colonial conquest in creating modern capital and commodity markets; the importance of addictive substances (like sugar and tobacco) in the development of the trans-Atlantic slave trade; and how a drought in Bangladesh sparked the American Revolution. This course is part of the following field(s) of study: U.S, Atlantic Worlds. It fulfills the pre-modern requirement for history majors.

Assignments:

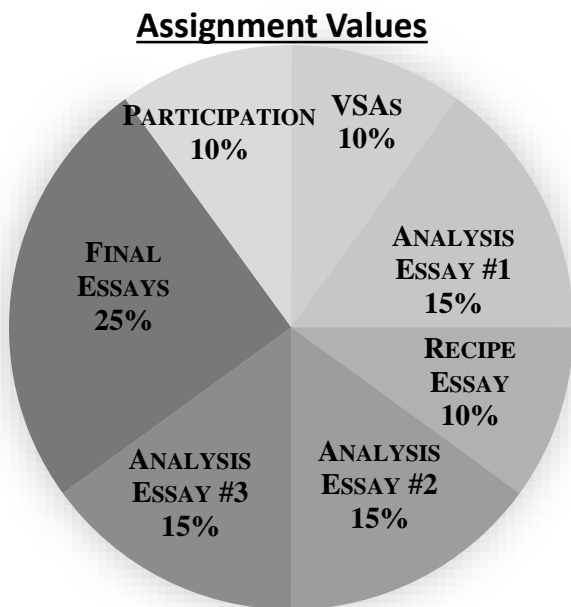
Very Short Assignments (VSAs) – For each class period you will be expected to post a brief summary (≈150 words) to Blackboard/Canvas identifying the thesis and main argument of that day’s reading(s). You will also be expected to post at least one discussion question. Both will be due by 10:00am on the day of class. Each VSA will be worth 0.5 points in your final course grade. Late VSAs will be eligible for a maximum of half credit (0.25 pts). (Exceptions: WEEK 1, Feb 14, Feb 21, WEEK 7, and WEEK 14.)

Three Analysis Essays – *Two* pages responding to a prompt posted on Canvas a week prior to the due date. Be sure that your essay addresses American history within the context of global (or, at least, trans-Atlantic) influences. You should draw on at least one primary source as well as material from lecture and our secondary source readings when framing your answer.

Columbian Exchange Recipe Essay – 4-5 pages of text + cover page. Essay should analyze your chosen dish/meal within the historical context of the Columbian Exchange and global trade networks.

Final Essays – The Final will consist of two 4-5-page essays. For each essay, you will be given several prompts from which to choose. The first essay should draw on material addressed in the last four weeks of class. The second should address the themes covered over the extent of the course.

All essays should be double-spaced with 12 in. Times New Roman font and 1 in. margins



Assignment Values:

- VSAs = 10%
- Analysis Essay #1 = 15%
- Recipe Essay = 10%;
- Analysis Essay #2 = 15%;
- Analysis Essay #3 = 15%;
- Final Essays = 25%;
- Participation = 10%

Attendance:

You will not receive any credit directly for attendance, but more than three unexcused absences will result in the loss of a full letter grade in the course. Five unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Grading Schema:

96.67-100 =A+	86.67-89.99 =B+	76.67-79.99 =C+	66.67-69.99 =D+	0-59.99 =F
93.33-96.66 =A	83.33-86.66 =B	73.33-76.66 =C	63.33-66.66 =D	
90-93.32 =A-	80-83.32 =B-	70-73.32 =C-	60-63.32 =D-	

Texts: All readings will be available through Canvas

CLASS CALENDAR:

WEEK 1: Introduction

Jan 22: Welcome to Class

Jan 24: In the Beginning

- Karen Ordahl Kupperman, “International at the Creation: Early Modern American History,” in *Rethinking American History in a Global Age*, ed. Thomas Bender (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002), 103-122. [≈20 pages]

WEEK 2:

Jan 29: Disease

- Alfred Crosby, *Germs, Seeds, & Animals: Studies in Ecological History* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1994), ix-xv, 28-41. [≈20 pages]
- Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1997), 195-197, 212-213. [≈ 5 pages]
- Primary Sources (PS): King James I and William Bradford [≈ 2 pages]

Jan 31: Silver and Gold

- Robert S. Wolff, “Da Gama's Blundering: Trade Encounters in Africa and Asia during the European 'Age of Discovery,' 1450-1520,” *The History Teacher* 31, no. 3 (May 1998): 297-318. [≈20 pages]
- Paul Krugman, *The Return of Depression Economics* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999), 8-11. [≈ 3 pages]
- PS: Columbus [≈ 2 pages]

WEEK 3:

Feb 5: Sugar

- Sidney W. Mintz, *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History* (New York: Penguin Books, 1985), xv-xxx. [≈15 pages]
- Eddy Stols, “The Expansion of the Sugar Market in Western Europe,” in *Tropical Babylons: Sugar and the Making of the Atlantic World, 1450-1680*, ed. Stuart B. Schwartz (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004), 237-252, 254-258, 267-275. [≈25 pages]
- PS: Richard Ligon [≈ 3 pages]

Feb 7: Tobacco & Chocolate

- Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2008), 129-172 [≈45 pages]
- PS: José de Acosta, “Of Cacao” and James I & Charles I on Tobacco

WEEK 4:

FEB 11: Analysis Essay # 1 Due

Feb 12: Fish & Ships

- W. Jeffrey Bolster, “Putting the Ocean in Atlantic History: Maritime Communities and Marine Ecology in the Northwest Atlantic, 1500-1800,” *The American Historical Review* 113, no. 1 (February 2008), 19-47. [≈30 pages]
- PS: Capt. Robert Hitchcock and the Commissioners of the United Provinces

Feb 14: Library Visit

- Nathan Nunn and Nancy Qian, "The Columbian Exchange: A History of Disease, Food, and Ideas," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 24, no. 2 (Spring 2010), 163-165, 167-184. (You may skip the section on diseases) [≈20 pages]
- William H. McNeill, "How the Potato Changed the World's History," *Social Research* 66, no. 1 (Spring 1999), 67-83. [≈20 pages]

WEEK 5:

Feb 19: Beaver – Iroquois

- David J. Silverman, *Thundersticks: Firearms and the Violent Transformation of Native America* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2016), 21-55. [≈35 pages]
- PS: Le Jeune & LeClercq

Feb 20 (Wed) @ 7:30pm: Golz Memorial Lecture feat. Prof. David Silverman

Feb 21: Visit by Prof. David J. Silverman

- Caroline Frank, *Objectifying China, Imagining America: Chinese Commodities in Early America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011), 27-57. [≈30 pages]

WEEK 6:

FEB 25: Columbian Exchange Recipe Essay Due

Feb 26: Slavery

- Joseph Inikori, "Transatlantic Slavery and Economic Development in the Atlantic World: West Africa, 1450-1850" in *The Cambridge History of Slavery*, eds. David Eltis and Stanley L. Engerman, 3 vols. (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2011), 3: 650-674. [≈25 pages]
- PS: Richard Ligon and Ayuba Suleiman Diallo

Feb 28: Livestock & Provisions

- Carole Shammas, "How Self-Sufficient Was Early America?" *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 13, no. 2 (Autumn 1982), 247-272. [≈25 pages]
- PS: The Wilderness Turn a Mart & Animal Trespass

WEEK 7:

Mar 5: Movie Discussion

- Movie: *New World*

Mar 7: Pre-Break Review

***SPRING BREAK* (Mar 14—24)**

WEEK 8:

MAR 25: Analysis Essay # 2 Due

Mar 26: Crossing the Atlantic: Free(ish) Labor & Credit

- Sarah M. S. Pearsall, *Atlantic Families: Lives and Letters in the Later Eighteenth Century* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), 111-142. [≈30 pages]
- PS: Arguments For and Against Emigration

Mar 28: Race

- David W. Galenson, "White Servitude and the Growth of Black Slavery in Colonial America," *The Journal of Economic History* 41, no. 1 (March 1981), 39-47. [≈8 pages]
- Rebecca Anne Goetz, "Rethinking the 'Unthinking Decision': Old Questions and New Problems in the History of Slavery and Race in the Colonial South," *The Journal of Southern History* 75, no. 3 (August 2009), 599-612. [≈15 pages]

- PS: A Virginian Opposes Emancipation

WEEK 9:

Apr 2: At the Margins of a World Economy

- Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, *The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2000), 1-7, 174-210. [≈45 pages]
- PS: Maroon Sources

Apr 4: Birth of the U.S.: (World) War for Empire

- Leora Auslander, *Cultural Revolutions: Everyday Life and Politics in Britain, North America, and France* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009), 81-112. [≈30 pages]
- PS: Address to the Ladies & Stamp Act Teapot

WEEK 10:

Apr 9: Birth of the U.S.: The Price of Tea

- Benjamin L. Carp, “Did Dutch Smugglers Provoke the Boston Tea Party?” *Early American Studies* 10, no. 2 (Spring 2012), 335-359. [≈25 pages]
- PS: Benjamin Franklin & Thomas Jefferson on Parliamentary Taxation

Apr 11: Birth of the U.S.: The War at Sea

- Christopher P. Magra, *The Fisherman's Cause: Atlantic Commerce and Maritime Dimensions of the American Revolution* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009), 161-214. [≈35 page]
- PS: Capt. Gustavus Conyngham

WEEK 11:

Apr 16: Birth of the U.S.: World War, Too

- Kathleen DuVal, *Independence Lost: Lives on the Edge of the American Revolution* (New York: Random House, 2015), 135-137, 188-218. [≈35 pages]
- PS: Political Cartoons

Apr 18: (Not So) Free Trade

- Joyce Appleby, “Commercial Farming and the ‘Agrarian Myth’ in the Early Republic,” *The Journal of American History* 68, no. 4 (March 1982), 833-849. [≈15 pages]
- PS: Hamilton & Jefferson

WEEK 12:

APR 20: Analysis Paper # 3 Due

Apr 23: Empire(s) of Liberty

- Kim M. Gruenwald, *River of Enterprise: The Commercial Origins of Regional Identity in the Ohio Valley* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2002), 101-138. [≈40 pages]
- PS: Pres. Jefferson’s Instructions to Capt. Meriwether Lewis

Apr 25: Museum Visit

- Zara Anishanslin, *Portrait of a Woman in Silk: Hidden Histories of the British Atlantic World* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016), 1-21. [≈20 pages]

WEEK 13:

Apr 30: Cotton

- Ronald Bailey, “The Other Side of Slavery: Black Labor, Cotton, and Textile Industrialization in Great Britain and the United States,” *Agricultural History* 68:2 (Spring 1994): 35-50. [≈25 pages]

- PS: Sen. Sumner on the “Lords of the Lash and... Loom” & Christy on “King Cotton”

May 2: Grappling with Globalization

- Julie L. Holcomb, *Moral Commerce: Quakers and the Transatlantic Boycott of the Slave Labor Economy* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2016), 63-88. [≈25 pages]

- PS: Franklin, Chandler & Douglass on Abstinence and Free Produce

WEEK 14:

May 7: Final Review

Reading Period

WEEK 15: FINALS WEEK

MAY 16: Final due at 4:30pm

WARNINGS AND DISCLAIMERS

SYLLABUS: This syllabus is a living document and will likely evolve over the course of the semester. You can always find the most up-to-date assignments on Canvas under the “Modules” tab.

CANVAS: Canvas will be an integral part of this course. The syllabus, descriptions of assignments, useful guides, and any changes hereafter will be posted there. You are required to check Canvas regularly and will be responsible for all material on the course site.

FILMS: Film screenings are intended for class purposes only and, in accordance with copyright law, are not open to the public.

CITATION OF SOURCES: When referring to sources (primary and secondary) in your papers, you should provide a complete citation including author, title, publisher, place and date of publication, and page numbers. Citations should follow the “Chicago-style” format commonly used by historians. I ask that you use footnotes with all of your paper assignments. The library website has citation information under “Get Started,” and I have included several links on Blackboard. Please see me if you have any questions.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All students must read and abide by the Academic Honor and Social Code (<http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/index.shtml>). Suspected cases of plagiarism will result in a conference with me, and, if unresolved at that point, will be referred to the Judicial Board. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please consult a reference librarian or ask me.