

Department of History
Graduate History Course Descriptions
Summer 2017

HIS 8011	American Societies in the Colonial Era to 1750
CRN 12785	
T 6:10 PM- 8:50 PM	
Dr. Catherine Kerrison	

The European expansionists of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries saw the North American continent as “virgin” territory, a place in which dreams long dead in the Old World could be resurrected and realized in the New. Spanish, English, and French arrived first and found inhabitants already here; later the Dutch, Irish, Germans, and Scotch-Irish would follow; Africans endured a forced emigration. Historians have argued about which had the greater impact on the shape of the colonial societies that had emerged by 1750: the cultural baggage with which settlers, voluntary and involuntary, traveled, or the environment (including the inhabitants already here) in which the newcomers found themselves. Yet even that question assumes a kind of stasis not found in the roiling Atlantic World, in which exchanges of peoples, ideas, material goods, diseases, languages, and a host of other cultural artifacts preclude a ‘snapshot’ view. More recent work has demonstrated that movement was not just westbound; colonial societies did not live in provincial isolation; nor did European ambitions go unchecked.

This course will explore the meaning of a variety of colonial experiences, as students survey the field by means of our common reading. Pairs of students will be responsible for leading class discussions of the readings; the instructor will provide historiographical context. By means of these readings, students will lay a foundation for their greater understanding of, and ability to teach, the history of colonial America. In addition to two book reviews (or lesson plans), students will write a 10-12 page analysis of a primary source of their choice.

HIS 8433
Dr. Deborah Boyer
Th 6:10-8:50 PM

The definition of digital history is amorphous, broad, and often debated. Digital history projects may refer to everything from an online exhibition to a podcast to a multi-layered historic map. This class will explore digital history in terms of the questions of shared authority, access, and historical analysis that arise when using digital tools for working with and sharing historical resources. Class goals include:

1. Gain an understanding of the field of digital history and the technology choices, intellectual property, data organization, and design issues connected with digital projects.
2. Discover how to use digital projects to engage with multiple stakeholders and audiences and encourage conversations and collaborations.

3. Learn to evaluate technical tools in order to choose the most effective medium for achieving the aims of the project.
4. Experiment with various technologies and discover additional resources for building your technical skills. Note: No previous technical experience is required for this class.

HIS 8290

Dr. Lynne Hartnett
M 6:10-8:50 PM

Women & Gender in Modern Europe

This course will explore the social, political and economic standing and experiences of women in European history and the ways in which gender shaped the historical landscape during the last three centuries. During the semester, we will examine European women from a variety of countries, socio-economic groups, and political penchants. Through the careful analysis of both secondary and a handful of primary sources, we will explore gender as a construct and the ways in which considerations of gender affected both modern European women and men. Central to our discussions will be the question of how gender, as a social construct, affected women not only as historical actors but also as subjects of historical inquiry. In addition, we will explore masculinity as a social construct, especially in terms of its relationship to war and peace. By analyzing the position and perceptions of women in modern Europe, we will attempt to uncover how both women and men have been affected by gendered stereotypes and expectations.

The final project for this course will be a research paper based on original research.

Potential Readings include:

- Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*
- Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*
- Elizabeth Heineman, *What Difference Does a Husband Make?*
- Angela Kershaw et al, *Women in Europe between the Wars*
- Joan Landes, *Visualizing the Nation: Gender, Representation, and Revolution in Eighteenth Century France.*
- Anne McClintock, *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*
- Ellen Ross, *Love and Toil: Motherhood in Outcast London, 1870-1918.*
- Joan Scott, *Gender and the Politics of History.*
- Nancy Wingfield and Maria Bucur, eds., *Gender and War in Twentieth Century Eastern Europe*
- Elizabeth Wood, *The Baba and the Comrade*