Colonial American History
TYP 5A-1 Fall 2015
T/Th 2-3:20pm
Shiffman, 201

Dr. Craig Bruce Smith
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Office Hours: Rabb 323, M/W 3-4pm

Course Description

This survey inquires into the development of American history from the pre-Columbian era through the end of the French and Indian War. It will explore the major social, cultural, political, and economic themes that dominated early American society. The class will illustrate how the American colonies were forged by a combination of cultures and beliefs. The goal of the class is to show the progression of America from a collection of European colonies to an independent nation. Students will be introduced to topics such as: exploration, colonization, Native American encounters, slavery, the Atlantic World, and the French and Indian War. Continuing themes will include: government policy, race, gender, slavery, ethics, leadership, religion, frontier expansion, race, and the path to revolution.

Learning Goals

• Inspire historical thinking about early America and its effects on the foundations of society
• Cultivate a connection of historical themes and their continued relevance
• Engage in writing and research
• Acquaint students with primary and secondary sources
• Foster verbal skills through daily class discussion

Core Skills

• Develop strong interpretive skills through analysis and discussion
• Perform a close reading and ideological analysis
• Cultivate a connection of historical themes and their continued relevance
• Team building through peer review workshops
• Prepare the students for reading/writing in diverse majors and future occupations

Social Justice

• Engage in discussion over historical ethical choices
• Evaluate historical interpretations of race, class, and gender
• Use historical knowledge to effect change and decision making in the modern day

Requirements and Grading
Quizzes: (5%) In-class quizzes (announced and unannounced) on relevant readings and class discussions.

Midterm Exam: (20%) The midterm exam will be an in-class written exam covering major themes and problems in colonial American history.

Research Paper: (25%) Students will write a 3-5 page interpretive, original research paper on a pre-approved topic on colonial American history. The essay may focus on an individual, idea, question, problem, or theme. It must make an argument or an inquiry and use at least two primary sources and two secondary sources. The paper must include Chicago Style citations. Please make an appointment to discuss the topic with me before beginning, but all topics must be turned in by Sept. 17. All papers must be submitted in hardcopy. DUE: Nov. 12.

Additional essay assignments:
1. Please make an appointment to discuss the topic with me before beginning.
2. You are required to meet with me and/or the course tutor a minimum of three times specifically regarding this paper. Once before Sept. 16, once from Oct. 1-20, once from Oct. 27-Nov. 10. Failure to meet with the instructor/tutor will reduce your final paper grade by ½ letter for each missed session.
3. Peer review/Draft
4. Research Presentation

Class Participation and Attendance: (25%) Each student is required to actively attend and participate in class discussions, bring up relevant points for inquiry, ask appropriate questions, and show a prior knowledge of the assigned readings. Inappropriate or disruptive conduct will result in a lowering of your final participation grade, dismissal from the class for the day and/or a failure for the day’s in-class assignments/exams.

Final Exam: (25%) The final exam will be an in-class written exam covering major themes and problems in American history from the colonial era through the early republic. Date TBD.

All assignments are to be turned in (in hard copy) by the end of the class they are due. No e-mailed papers will be accepted. Late papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade per day. All assignments must be submitted in order to pass the course. Make up exams/quizzes will not be given without documented evidence of a medical/personal emergency.

Communication, E-mail, and Office Hours

All communication must be through your Brandeis e-mail address. I will not accept/respond to any e-mails sent from a non-Brandeis address. Students are responsible for regularly checking their Brandeis e-mail addresses and the course LATTE page for updates regarding the class. Students are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss their work with me even during office hours in order to ensure ample time for a meeting.
Academic Integrity

Please review the University policies on academic integrity, described in Section Four of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook: (http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/srcs/rr/RR11.12.pdf)

Disability Documentation

If you are a student with a disability on record and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me.

Books and Articles

(Books are available in the MKTYP office; articles and primary sources are available via online databases.)

Required Texts

- Anderson, Fred. *The War That Made America: A Short History of the French and Indian War*
- Richter, Daniel. *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America*
- Wood, Gordon S. *The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin*

Course Schedule, Readings, and Assignments

Overview

1. (Aug. 27) Introduction: Colonial America: A Clash of Cultures

The New World Meets the Old World

2. (Sept. 1) Native America

   Taylor, Ch. 1.
   Richter, Intro.

3. (Sept. 3) European Exploration, New Spain, and the First Colonies

   Taylor, Ch. 2-3.
   Privileges…to Christopher Columbus
   http://avalon.law.yale.edu/15th_century/colum.asp
   Treaty of Tordesillas
   http://avalon.law.yale.edu/15th_century/mod001.asp
4. (Sept. 8) Native and European Encounters
   Taylor, Ch. 4-5.
   Richter, Ch. 1-2.
   Quiz #1

The Colonization of British North America

5. (Sept. 10) – No Class, Brandeis Monday

6. (Sept. 15) – No Class

7. (Sept. 17) From the Lost Colony to Jamestown
   “The Roanoke Island Colony: Lost, and Found?”
   “We Finally Have Clues to How America's Lost Colony Vanished”
   Charter to Sir Walter Raleigh
   http://avalon.law.yale.edu/16th_century/raleigh.asp

Paper topics due

8. (Sept. 22) Virginia
   Taylor, Ch. 6.

9. (Sept. 24) The Chesapeake
   Taylor, Ch. 7.

10. (Sept. 29) – No Class, Brandeis Monday

11. (Oct. 1) New England
Taylor, Ch. 8-9.
Wood, p. 17-23.
The Mayflower Compact
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/mayflower.asp
Cotton Mather, assigned selections
http://matherproject.org/node/4

12. (Oct. 6) The Middle Colonies

Taylor, Ch. 12.
Wood, p. 23-60.
**Quiz #2**

13. (Oct. 8) The Carolinas and the Low Country

Taylor, Ch. 11.

14. (Oct. 13) Exam review

Students are required to prepare questions for review.

15. (Oct. 15) **Midterm Exam**

**Colonial Wars and Conflicts**

16. (Oct. 20) Colonists and Natives at War and Peace

   Edmund Randolph’s Description of King Philip’s War
   http://www.swarthmore.edu/SocSci/bdorsey1/41docs/45-ran.html
   Jill Lepore, *The Name of War*, video
   http://www.gilderlehrman.org/multimedia#!3397
   Richter, Ch. 3-4.

17. (Oct. 22) **Peer Review** – bring three hard copies of your paper draft to class

18. (Oct. 27) European and Colonial Conflict

Taylor, Ch. 13
Commission of Sir Edmund Andros
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/mass06.asp
19. (Oct. 29) It’s Witchcraft!

Salem Witchcraft Trials: Documentary Archive and Transcription Project, TBD
http://salem.lib.virginia.edu/


**British North America and the Atlantic World**

20. (Nov. 3) **Peer Review – bring three hard copies of your paper draft to class**

21. (Nov. 5) The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

Olaudah Equiano. The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, Or Gustavus Vassa, The African (entire) (available online)

22. (Nov. 10) Atlantic Citizenship: Trans-national Culture, Economy, and Migrations

Taylor, Ch. 10, 14-16.


**War and Empire**

23. (Nov. 12) George Washington Starts a War
Anderson, Part I
Taylor, p. 421-428.
George Washington, [Expedition to the Ohio, 1754: Narrative]
http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/default.xqy?keys=GEWN-search-1-5&expandNote=on#match

Paper Due

24. (Nov. 17) From Braddock to World War

Taylor, p. 428-437.
Anderson, Part II

25. (Nov. 19) From the Albany Plan of Union and the Birth of “Americans” to Victory

Anderson, Part III-IV
Richter, Ch. 6, Epilogue.
Albany Plan of Union
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/albany.asp

26. (Nov. 24) The Aftermath of War: Pontiac’s Rebellion and the Proclamation of 1763

Proclamation of 1763
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/proc1763.asp

27. (Nov. 26)—No Class, Thanksgiving Break

28. (Dec. 1) Conclusions: “No Taxation without Representation” and the Path to Revolution

Wood, p. 105-151.
Taylor, p. 437-442.
Stamp Act
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/stamp_act_1765.asp

29. (Dec. 3) Review

Students are required to prepare questions for review.

30. (Dec. 8) Final Exam