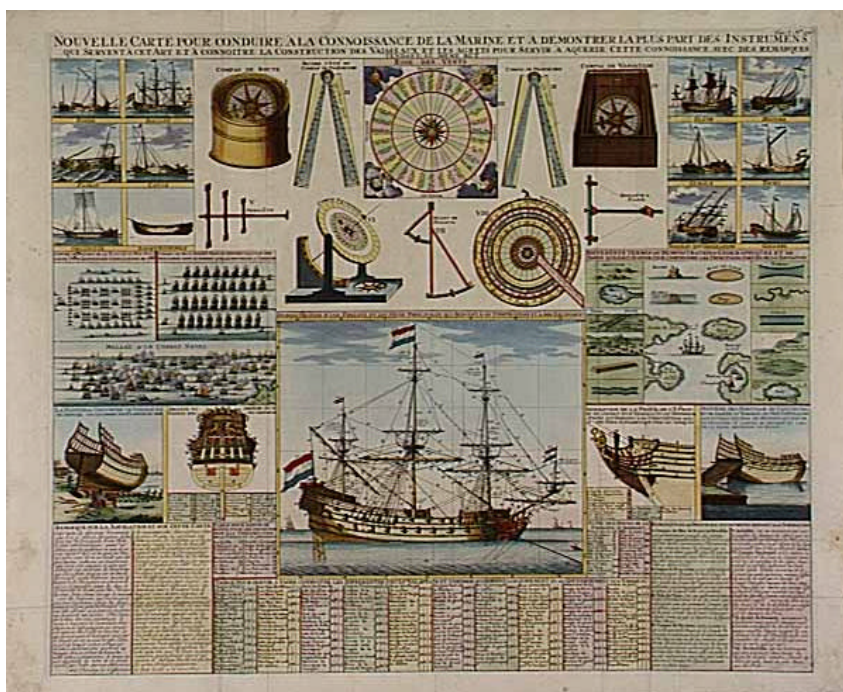


History 522
 Monday 6-8:50
 Fall 2001
 UNCG

Dr. Hunter
 224C McIver, 334-4068
 Hours: Wed 2-3:00
 & by appointment



*A Chart for Conducting Marine Exploration Showing most of the Instruments
 Published in Amsterdam in 1720*

**“Marvelous Possessions:”
 How Europeans “Produced” the Americas**

(Topics in Early America)

This topics course will examine how Europeans took possession of new world lands and peoples. For Europeans, enlightenment goals to catalogue uncharted lands and utopian aims to build new societies often collided with longings for riches and missionary crusades to convert souls. Each of these competing impulses generated different ways of possession, producing, and consuming the idea and experience of America. Through reading secondary sources in history, literature, and anthropology this course will explore different motives and methods that shaped cultural encounters with and images of the new world during the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries.

Texts

Alfred Crosby. *Ecological Imperialism*.

Seed, Patricia. *Ceremonies of Possession in Europe's Conquest of the New World, 1492-1640*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Mintz, Sidney W. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. New York: Penguin Books, 1986.

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Rev. ed. New York, Verso, 1991.

Price, Richard. *Alabi's World*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990

Requirements

Class Participation:

Class attendance is required. Each student should come to class prepared for an in-depth discussion of the week's readings. Taking notes while you are reading will help you greatly in preparing for class discussion. When reading, allow your notes to develop as an alternative text that both comments on, extends, and questions the reading. Take note of passages you do not understand and of interpretations you find persuasive or flawed. Also, try to understand the implications of the author's ideas when applied to other examples -- in other words, talk back to the text in your notes. Armed with the text, notes, and response papers when required you will be prepared for class discussion. Do not wait to be called on. It is your responsibility to participate. Your ideas are valuable and important to all of us.

Students will be asked to do a class presentations on material of their own choosing that relate to the week's assigned reading and expand our knowledge and thinking on the topic. Undergraduates will work in teams for these presentations while graduate students will present individually. Presentations should combine a variety of formats including at least some class discussion. Students should meet with Professor Hunter well in advance of their presentation dates.

Response Papers:

Students will submit 5 short response papers of 1½ to 3 pages as indicated on the Course Schedule. The papers must be typed and use proper (academic) English. Papers with

sentence fragments, lack of agreement between subject and verb, misplaced modifiers, inappropriate changes of subject during a single sentence, improper use of indefinite pronouns, frequent misspellings, and other mistakes not appropriate to college-level writing will not be accepted. Papers are due at the beginning of class. **No late papers will be accepted – this means it would be wise to prepare your paper in advance of the due date.**

The response papers should be based on the assigned readings and can refer to previous texts as well. In the paper, you should take up either a broad theme or a particular detail, develop an idea (a thesis) about the subject matter or the production of the text itself, and use references from the reading (and other sources if you wish) to substantiate or extend the implications of your idea. Be prepared to read your paper to the class as part of class discussion.

Final Paper/Project

Each student will use material from the class readings and additional research to write a final paper about a “possession.” The paper may take the form of a research paper, a textual and contextual analysis of a single work, or a proposed museum exhibit. Detailed instructions will be provided during the term. Each student should meet with Dr. Hunter early in the semester to select a topic. For undergraduates the paper should be 7-10 pages with at least three pages of supplemental material. Students will make a class presentation of their final paper/project at the end of the semester.

**** The final Paper/Project is due Wednesday Dec 12. ****

Grades:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Class Participation | 40% |
| Response Papers | 30% |
| Final Paper/Project | <u>30%</u> |
| Total | 100% |

CLASS SCHEDULE

Mon – Aug 20: Introduction

Week One

Mon – Aug 27

Reading: Crosby, Ecological Imperialism

Mon – Sept 3 OFF! LABOR DAY

Week Two

Mon – Sept 10

Reading: Crosby, Ecological Imperialism . **Due: Response Paper**

Week Three

Mon – Sept 17

Reading: Seed: Ceremonies of Possession, Introduction & Chapter 3 (1-15 & 69-99)

Week Four

Mon – Sept 24

Reading: Seed: Chapters 1 & 5 (16-40 & 149-178); Merwick, from Possessing Albany (on reserve); Greene, from Intellectual Construction of America (on reserve)

Due: Response Paper on Greene or Merwick

Week Five

Mon – Oct 1

Reading: Seed: Chapters 2, 4, & Conclusion. (41-69, 100-193)

Due: Response Paper

Mon – Oct 8 OFF! FALL BREAK

Week Six

Mon – Oct 15 **Due: paragraph on topic idea for final project**

Reading: Mintz: Sweetness and Power, Introduction & Chapters 1-2 (xv-xxx & 1-73)

Week Seven

Mon – Oct 22

Reading: Mintz, Chapters 3-5 (74-214). **Due: Response Paper**

Week Eight

Mon – Oct 29 **Due: One page proposal and Bibliography for final paper.**

Reading: Anderson, Imagined Communities, Chapters 1-6 (1-111)

Week Nine

Mon – Nov 5

Reading: Anderson, Chapters 7-11 (113-206). **Due: Response Paper**

Week Ten

Mon – Nov 12

Reading: Price, Alabi's World, TBA

Week Eleven

Mon – Nov 19

Reading: Price, TBA. **Due: Response Paper**

Week Twelve

Mon – Nov 26

Reading: Lears, T. Jackson, "Cultural Hegemony" (on reserve) and James Clifford, "On Ethnographic Allegory" from Writing Culture (on reserve).

Week Thirteen

Mon – Dec 3

Presentations of Final Papers/Projects

Week Fourteen

Mon – Dec 10

Presentations of Final Papers/Projects. Last Class.

Wed – Dec 12

Final Paper/Project due – my office by 6 P.M.



Map by Weigel, 1740