

# Atlantic World Colloquium

HIS 710

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Fall 2009

History 710.01: MHRA 3208, 6:30-9:20

Instructor: Dr. Joanna J. Kucinski

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**Course Description:** This seminar is an introduction to the concepts, approaches, and themes of field of Atlantic history between (roughly) 1400 and 1800. The Atlantic World is a useful conceptual and methodological framework for understanding the development of European empires and colonial societies and the process and impact of exchanges between the continents during the early modern period. Our goal is to examine the historiography of this field and identify significant trends, possible scholarly benefits, and limitations and weaknesses of an Atlantic approach.

Grading:

Paper 1: 20%

Paper 2: 25%

Paper and Presentation on Commodity: 25%

Final Historiographical essay: 30%

## Required Texts:

Jack Green and Phillip Morgan, eds. *Atlantic History: A Critical Appraisal* (Oxford, 2009)  
ISBN 978-0-19-532034-3

Robert Harms, *The Diligent: A Voyage Through the Worlds of the Slave Trade* ISBN 978-0465028726

Susan Amussen, *Caribbean Exchanges, Slavery and the Transformation of English Society, 1640-1700* ISBN-13: 978-0807858547.

*The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano*, any edition, though I recommend the Penguin classics version edited by Vincent Carretta. ISBN 978-0142437162

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*. Again, any edition, though the Janet Todd edition is good- ISBN 978-0275980924

Alfred Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange*, ISBN 978-0275980924 (This is an old classic; there are many editions out there--this is the latest).

Londa Schiebinger, *Plants and Empire: Colonial Bio-Prospecting* ISBN 0674025684

Susan Scott Parrish, *American Curiosity: Cultures of Natural History in the Colonial British Atlantic World* 978-0807856789

John Gillis, *Islands of the Mind: How the Human Imagination Created the Atlantic World*. (Available for Pre-order on Amazon.com)

## **Readings and Topics**

August 27: Introduction

### **Unit One: Identifying the terrain: Concepts, Places, and Players**

September 3: Atlantic Empires

- Green and Morgan, Introduction and Parts I and II

September 10: Approaches

- Green and Morgan, Part III
- Paper 1 Due

### **Unit Two: Case Studies, Exchanging Peoples and Civilizations**

September 17: Worlds of the Slave Trade

- Harms, *The Diligent*

September 24: Building an English Empire

- Amussen, *Caribbean Exchanges*

October 1: European Perspective on Slavery

- Behn, *Oroonoko*
- Khary Polk, "Reviving Oroonoko," *The Journal of Negro History*, Vol. 85, No. 3 (Summer, 2000), pp. 154-161
- Nicholas Hudson, "From Nation to Race: The Origins of Racial Classification in Eighteenth Century Thought," *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Spring, 1996), pp. 247-264

October 8: Inventing Slave Identity

- Equiano, *An Interesting Narrative*

- Adam Potkay, “**Olaudah Equiano and the Art of Spiritual Autobiography**,” *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 4, African-American Culture in the Eighteenth-Century (Summer, 1994), pp. 677-692
- Geraldine Murphy, “Olaudah Equiano, Accidental Tourist,” *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 4, African-American Culture in the Eighteenth-Century (Summer, 1994), pp. 551-568

October 15:

- David Geggus, “Sex Ratio, Age and Ethnicity in the Atlantic Slave Trade: Data from French Shipping and Plantation Records,” [\*The Journal of African History\*](#), Vol. 30, No. 1 (1989), pp. 23-44.
- Akinwumi Ogundiran, “Of Small Things Remembered: Beads, Cowries, and Cultural Translations of the Atlantic Experience in Yorubaland,” *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*, Vol. 35, No. 2/3 (2002), pp. 427-457.
- Randy J. Sparks, “Two Princes of Calabar: An Atlantic Odyssey from Slavery to Freedom,” *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Third Series, Vol. 59, No. 3, Slavery in the Atlantic World (Jul., 2002), pp. 555-584
- **Paper 2 Due**

### Unit Three: Ecological Exchange

October 22: Biological Impacts

- Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange*

October 29: Bio-prospecting?

- Schiebinger, *Plants and Empire*

November 5: Commodities Presentations

November 12: Commodities Presentations; **Paper 3 Due**

### Unit Four: Intellectual Exchange

November 19: Colonial Science

- Parrish, *American Curiosity*
- Karl W. Butzer, “From Columbus to Acosta: Science, Geography, and the New World” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 82, No. 3, The

Americas before and after 1492: Current Geographical Research (Sep., 1992), pp. 543-565

November 26: **Thanksgiving Day (No Class)**

December 3: Imagining the Atlantic

- Gillis, *Islands of the Mind*
- **Final Historiographical Essay Due**