

History 292H (Honors Seminar)
Early English Exploration and Colonization
T 02:00-04:50 Hamilton Hall 425

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Syllabus

1. **Intent:** This course is designed to immerse you in the primary sources of the English and Native American experience of colonization and exploration in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This is very much a course about *mentalite* rather than events or social history. We want to understand the mindset of the English who appeared on the eastern seaboard of North America, and how they understood the land and people they found, and also how those Native Americans came to understand them. In general, for each region we will look at primary materials first (or literary representations of the experience), trying from the sources themselves to decode how the participants were thinking and interpreting their experiences. Then we will turn to either anthropological or historical approaches and see how those two disciplines have worked with the material we have read. As we go forward you will find that an understanding of history, literature, theology and anthropology are all essential tools to understanding the intersection of cultures across the Atlantic.

The early colonial period was a period of incredible flux and one in which the participants were trying to figure out the extent *and nature* of the new worlds that appeared to be opening up around them. It is my hope that in exploring these documents you will gain a new appreciation for just how wide the world seemed to them at the time. Anything was possible.

2. Specifics:

Class Preparation and Participation: For each week you will be assigned (as groups or individuals) issues to be prepared to discuss in more detail. Your participation grade will be based on your preparedness for class, and will constitute 25% of your grade.

Written Assignments: Given the heavy reading requirements of this course, we will have a number of smaller written assignments, but no large research paper.

1. You should purchase a smallish 3-ring notebook, in which you will compile the numerous small assignments that you will do over the course of the semester. At the end of the semester you will turn it in and I will grade it as an overall product. During the semester I will spot-check the assignments, and you will be expected to present them occasionally in class. Don't fall behind! Your notebook will count for 30% of your grade. There will be 9 "small" assignments spread out over the course of the semester. They are listed here briefly for reference purposes; details will be explained in class.

- I. Oxford English Dictionary (word, context of original, & def.)
- II. Dictionary of National Biography / Dictionary of American Biography (print full entry)
- III. Early English Books (relevant work >8pp; citation and summary, printout of title page)
- IV. Evans (sermon, from before 1680, citation, summary, printout of title page)
- V. Edited Colonial Documents (assembly session summary)

- VI. Probates and Wills (printout of 1 of each—observations)
- VII. Calendar of State Papers - America & West Indies (relevant to VA or NE; single doc with complete citation and a copy)
- VIII. State Papers - Domestic (originals) (2 weeks)
- IX. State Papers (accounting)

2. You will need to prepare a review of 2 of the 3 secondary books that we are reading (Oberger, Gleach, or Archer). The reviews should be 500-750 words each, and should include: (1) information on the author and his qualifications or experience; (2) a brief description of the organization and scope of the work; (3) a statement of the thesis or purpose or theme of the work; (4) your evaluation of the success of the author in achieving that thesis or purpose. Due Week 14, but I strongly recommend you do one earlier and turn it in for grading to help you better prepare the 2nd one. 10% each = 20%

3. You will write a final essay (7-10 pp) comparing some aspect of the experience of settlement/development in New England and the Chesapeake. You should choose a theme along which to compare them, since a full comparison is beyond such a short page limit. Possible themes include: politics, labor, power, social stratification, motivations, economics, gender, leadership, race, contact experience, and more. Note that talking about any one of these themes probably necessitates mentioning some of the others, but choose one around which to center your argument. We will discuss this assignment further in class. Due Week 14: 25%

3. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as the unacknowledged use of the words or ideas of another person. The most obvious case of plagiarism is the use of another's words in a word-for-word manner in your own work, without citing the original author. It also includes, however, borrowing the framework of ideas from another author (or another student), again, unless you acknowledge that borrowing in your work. If you ever have any doubts then ask. You are responsible for understanding and following the University Honor Code. Plagiarism will lead to the severest possible consequences.

Late policy: All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day specified in the syllabus (unless other arrangements have been made). Do not come late or skip class to finish an assignment. It will be counted late. More specifically, any work turned in late, but on the same day, will be docked 1/3 of a letter grade. For each succeeding 24 hour period that it is not turned in it will lose a full letter grade. Reasonable excuses will be accepted with documentation. Note that there is a substantial difference between an "F" and a zero. Turn in work even if it is very late.

Finding me: I will have office hours on Tues 9-10 and Thurs from 12-1:30. I'm also available by appointment, easiest arranged via email or before/after class.

4. **Books:** You should purchase or secure copies from local libraries of the books listed below. They have been ordered through the bookstore, but you should also be able to find many of them even more cheaply in local used bookstores or through internet used book search engines. (Try

www.bookfinder.com. For your assistance I have provided official retail prices). Some readings will be made available online.

BOOKS:

Archer, Richard. *Fissures in the Rock: New England in the Seventeenth Century*. Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 2001. ISBN: 1584650850 \$19.95

Bradford, William. *Of Plymouth Plantation*. New York: McGraw-Hill Companies, 1981.
ISBN: 0075542811 \$7.50

Oberg, Michael Leroy. *Dominion and Civility: English Imperialism and Native America, 1585-1685*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999. ISBN: 0801488834 \$24.95

Dunn, Richard S. ed. *The Journal of John Winthrop, 1630-1649*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1996 (**abridged ed.!!**).
ISBN: 0674484274 \$19.95

Gleach, Frederick W. *Powhatan's World and Colonial Virginia: A Conflict of Cultures*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997.
ISBN: 0803270917 \$19.95

Kupperman, Karen ed. *Captain John Smith: A Select Edition of his Writings*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988
ISBN: 0807842087 \$19.95

Quinn, David B. and Alison M. Quinn, eds. *The First Colonists, Documents on the Planting of the First English Settlements in North America, 1584-1590*. Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives & History, 1996.
ISBN: 0865261954 \$12.00

Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest*. New York: Viking Penguin, 1999.
ISBN: 0140714855 \$3.95

Williams, Roger. *A Key into the Language of America*. Bedford, Mass.: Applewood Books, 1997.
ISBN: 1557094640 \$12.95 (OPTIONAL, because it is also available online)

4. Schedule (books are indicated by author's name in italics. Items not online or in books will be downloadable from Blackboard).

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Initial forays and first contacts

Read:

- *Quinn* (the Barlowe, Lane, Hariot, and White documents) (12+22+31+5+16+14pp)
 - Spenser, Edmund. "A View of the Present State of Ireland" In *The English Traveller in Ireland*, ed. John P. Harrington. Dublin: Wolfhound Press, 1991. pp. 59-69 (10pp)
 - Rich, Barnaby. "A New Description of Ireland." In *Ibid.*, pp. 81-90 (9pp)
- <BLACKBOARD>

Week 3: The Virginia Voyages - the view from back home

Read:

- *Shakespeare*

- Wright, Louis B. *A Voyage to Virginia in 1609*. Charlottesville : University Press of Virginia, 1964 (Contains William Strachey's "A True Reportory of the Wreck and Redemption of Sir Thomas Gates, Knight" and Silvester Jourdain's "A Discovery of the Bermudas, Otherwise Called the Isle of Devils" (London, 1610) <BLACKBOARD>

Week 4: The Virginia Voyages - first settlement

Read:

- *Kupperman* (pp. 57-203 only)

- Spelman, Henry. "Relation of Virginia [1613]." in E. Arber and A. G. Bradley, eds., *Travels and Works of Captain John Smith* (Edinburgh, 1910), I: ci-cxiv (13pp).

<BLACKBOARD>

- Hamor, Ralph. *A True Discourse of the Present State of Virginia*. (STC 12736)
London, John Beale for William Welby, 1615. (70pp) (available on EEBO). <Be sure to read Rolfe's letter at the end>

Week 5: The Virginia Voyages - the problem of contact

Read:

- *Gleach* (pp. 1-105)

- Trigger, Bruce G. "Early Native North American Responses to European Contact: Romantic versus Rationalistic Interpretations." *Journal of American History* 77 (1991): 1195-1215. <JSTOR>

Week 6: The Virginia Voyages - the problem of contact

Read:

- *Gleach* (pp. 105-205)

- Kupperman, Karen Ordahl. "Presentment of Civility: English Response to American Self-Presentation, 1580-1640." *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d Ser., 54 (1997): 193-228. <JSTOR>

Week 7: NO CLASS (would be a good time to write your first review!)

Week 8: Early New England Voyages

Read: *Bradford* (pp. 1-127)

SPRING BREAK

Week 9: Early New England Contact and Internal Conflict

Read: *Bradford* (pp. 128-292)

(each student will also read one "Chapter" in Williams, Roger. *Key into the Language of America*. Wing W2766 (London, 1643) (available on EEBO)

Week 10: Puritanism and Control

Read: *Winthrop* (pp. 1-155)

Week 11: Puritanism and Control

Read: *Winthrop* (pp. 156-345)

Week 12: Puritans: An Historian's take

Read: *Archer* (pp. 1-133)

Week 13: Puritans at War

Read:

- *Bradford*, (pp. 292-340)

- Underhill, *John Newes from America*, ESTC 24518 (London, 1638) (44pp) (available on EEBO)

- Gardener's Narrative (37pp) <BLACKBOARD>

Week 14: English & Indian Conflict: The Historian's version

Read: *Oberg* (all)

Week 15: Concl. [*Two Reviews, final Essay, and notebook due*]