

**History of the Americas: Pre-Columbian to the Revolutionary Era
History 1701**

Tuesday and Thursday: 14:35 to 15:55

Killam Library Macme

Dr. Justin Roberts

Course Description:

This course explores the major themes in the social, political and cultural history of the Western hemisphere from the pre-Columbian era and the arrival of Europeans through the Revolutionary era. We will examine the exploration of the American coastline and the search for the Northwest Passage and precious metals, the variety of colonial models in the settlement of the Americas, the cultural and epidemiological exchanges that came with settlement, the impact of the discovery of the Americas on Europe and the rise to prominence in the Americas of coerced labor systems--chiefly racial slavery. We will also discuss the development of Atlantic trade networks, imperial rivalries in the New World, migration patterns, the creation of pan-American social and economic networks, the creolization of colonial peoples and the rise of the major staple crops that drove New World development (sugar, coffee, rice, tobacco, indigo, etc.). The course will end with a discussion of the radical and revolutionary political and social changes in the late eighteenth century that resulted in a series of rebellions against slavery and against colonial rule and ultimately in independence from Europe in large areas of North and South America.

The tropical and sub-tropical lands bordering the Caribbean Sea were the most important areas of the Americas in terms of migration, economic might and imperial interest from the arrival of Columbus through the late eighteenth century. One of the major themes throughout this course will be the beginning of a shift in political and economic importance and in population densities from the circum-Caribbean world to the North American and South American mainlands.

This course emphasizes the study of these processes through the lived experience of individual historical actors in the Americas. The first half of each lecture will explore a major theme in the history of North America, South America and the Caribbean world. During the second half of the lecture we will use biography or specific texts or events as case studies to zoom in on the early modern world by focusing on the human experience of the time periods, regions and processes we are exploring.

Contact Info:

roberts.justin@gmail.com

Office Hours: Wednesdays, Noon to 3pm or by appointment

Course Requirements:

Primary Source Paper: 30%

For this assignment, students will be asked to contrast and compare the narratives of Jacques Cartier, Bernal Diaz and Sir Walter Raleigh in an essay of approximately six to 8

pages. They will be asked to critically analyze these sources and contextualize them using course readings and lectures. Questions will be provided. Students may also choose their own themes.

Two Short In-Class Reading Exams: 30%

There will be two short in-class and closed-book extended reading exams. There will be two parts. Both quizzes will consist of short essay questions and ID's and they will address the readings to that date

Final Exam: 40%

This exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer questions, longer essay questions and a set of identify and state the significance questions. Options will be provided for each set of questions. The final exam will be comprehensive

Late Paper Policy

Late papers submitted without my prior approval will be docked a letter grade per day (i.e. an "A" paper submitted a day late becomes an "A-").

Required Textbooks (available at bookstore):

Felipe Fernandez-Arnesto, *The Americas: A Hemispheric History*

Bernal Diaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*

Ramsay Cook, ed. *The Voyages of Jacques Cartier*

Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution*

Benjamin Schmidt, ed. *The Discovery of Guiana with Related Documents*

Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Advisory in relation to Academic Continuity

In the event of an escalation of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus, the University may need to authorize Academic Units to change elements of class schedules and/or evaluation plans as outlined in course syllabi. Any change is intended to support the primary goal of reducing the risk of spreading a pandemic influenza among students, faculty and staff.

Although it is difficult to predict the severity of the pandemic, the University is committed to minimizing the impact on student's academic progress. Therefore, every effort will be made to provide students with options for continued learning and for continued fair evaluations.

Changes may include but are not limited to:

- . Adjustments to course assignments;
- . Changes to the dates of exams;
- . Arrangements for alternative evaluations for students affected

- by H1N1 influenza virus;
- . Adjustments to work terms;
- . Modification of marks awarded for participation;
- . Adjustments to attendance policies.

Any alternative plan made in individual courses may be superseded by University-wide or Government measures to reduce the spread of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus.

Statement on Plagiarism:

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the plagiarism.dal.ca website. ***Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.*** Dalhousie University subscribes to Turnitin.com, a computer-based service which checks for originality in submitted papers. Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarised from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website. The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit any paper to a check such as that performed by Turnitin.com. As a student in this class, you are to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course instructor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand. Copies of student papers checked by this process will be retained by Turnitin.com.

Statement on Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodations are encouraged to register as quickly as possible at Student Accessibility Services. To do so you can phone 902.494.2836, e-mail access@dal.ca, or drop in to their office in the Killam Memorial Library building. SAS is moving in August 2008, but will still be in the Killam building. Please check out their information on www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca.

Week 1

Lecture 1/ Sept. 10

Course Introduction, The Pre-Columbian World / The Popol Vuh

Required Readings:

Felipe Fernandez-Arnesto, *The Americas*: 3-55

Week 2

Lecture 1/Sept. 15

European-Native Cultural Encounters, The Columbian Exchange and Epidemiological Devastation / Oppeccanough and Don Luis

Lecture 2/ Sept. 17

Dreaming of Riches: The Northwest Passage, Cibola and El Dorado / Martin Frobisher

Required Readings:

Cook, ed., *The Voyages of Jacques Cartier*: 1-34

Felipe Fernandez-Arnesto, *The Americas*: 55-98.

Week 3

Lecture 1/ Sept. 22

Claiming, Conquering and Naming Land and Mapping the New World / Hernando de Soto

Lecture 2/ Sept. 24

Film: *Aguirre, The Wrath of God*

Required Readings:

Benjamin Schmidt, ed., *The Discovery of Guiana*: 45-112.

Week 4

Lecture 1/ Sept. 29

Pirates and Seafarers and the Importance of Waterways in the Early Modern World / Francis Drake

Lecture 2/ Oct. 1

Imperial Rivalries: The Balance of Power in the Americas, 1500-1700 / Queen Elizabeth

Required Readings:

Cook, ed., *The Voyages of Jacques Cartier*: 35-106.

Week 5:

Lecture 1/ Oct. 6

First Midterm Exam

Lecture 2/ Oct. 8

Religious Utopias and Migrations / John Winthrop

Required Readings;

Felipe Fernandez-Arnesto, *The Americas*: 99-158.

Bernal Diaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*: 57-84.

Week 6:

Lecture 1/ Oct. 13

Models of Colonization, Conquest and Expansion / Walter Raleigh

Lecture 2/ Oct. 15

The Slave Trade and the Rise of Coerced Labor in the New World / John Newton

Required Readings:

Bernal Diaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*: 85-165.

Week 7:

Lecture 1/ Oct. 20

The African Diaspora and African American Culture / Olaudah Equiano

Lecture 2/ Oct. 22

European Migration Patterns and Folkways / Scots in the New World

Required Readings:

Bernal Diaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*: 166-244

Week 8:

Lecture 1/ Oct. 27

Native American Resistance and Accommodation to European Settlement / The Iroquois Nation

Lecture 2/ Oct. 29

Film: *Black Robe*

Required Readings:

Bernal Diaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*: 245-325.

Week 9:

Lecture 1/ Nov. 3

Second Midterm Exam

Lecture 2/ Nov. 5

Women and Families in the Colonies / Hannah Heaton

Required Readings:

Bernal Diaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*: 326-413.

Week 10:

Lecture 1/ Nov. 10
Science, Discovery and Natural Knowledge in the New World / Joseph Banks

Lecture 2/ Nov. 12
Creole identity and the Maturation of Colonial Societies/ William Byrd

Required Readings:
Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, 1-90.

Week 11:

Lecture 1/ Nov. 17
Borderlands, Frontier Life and the Backcountry / Daniel Boone

Lecture 2/ Nov. 19
Drawing New Maps: The Seven Year War and the Eighteenth-Century Balance of Power/
Louis-Joseph de Montcalm

Primary source paper due after second lecture

Required Readings:
Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, 91 - 170.

Week 12:

Lecture 1/ Nov. 23
Administering Empire: Law and Governance in the Colonies / Thomas Hutchinson

Lecture 2/ Nov. 25
Abolition and the Enlightenment in the Americas / Benjamin Franklin

Required Readings:
Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*: 171- 250

Week 13

Lecture 1/ Nov. 30
American Independence Movements and the Revolutionary Era / Simon Bolivar

Lecture 2/ Dec. 3
New Nations and Empires / Thomas Jefferson

Required Readings:
Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*: 251 - 308.