HISTORY 535/615—AMERICA AND THE EARLY MODERN WORLD:
OCEANS AND EMPIRES

Prof. Rosemarie Zagarri

Office: Robinson B, 371B
Office hours: Monday, 10:00-12:00
Spring 2014
And by appointment
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Required Books:
Anthony Pagden, Lords of All the World: Ideologies of Empire in Spain, Britain and France C.1500-C.1800 (1998)
Alfred W. Crosby, The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492 (1973)
Alison Games, Web of Empire: English Cosmopolitans in the Age of Expansion, 1560-1660 (2009)
Jon Sensbach, Rebecca's Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World (2006)
Caroline Frank, Objectifying China, Imagining America: Commodities in Early America (2012)
Stephanie Smallwood, Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to America Diaspora (2008)

Date       Topic/Readings

Jan. 22    Introduction
Jan. 29  
**Contact between "Old" and "New" Worlds**  
Reading: Crosby, *Columbian Exchange*

Feb. 5  
**Dispossessing the Natives (a.k.a.Colonization)**  
Reading: Pagden, *Lords of All the World*

Feb. 12  
**Britons on the Move**  
Reading: Games, *Web of Empire*

Feb. 19  
**Spain and the Circulation of Goods**  
Reading: Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures*

Feb. 26  
**The Rise of Global Capitalism: Slavery**  
Reading: Smallwood, *Saltwater Slavery*

March 5  
**The Circulation of Religious Ideas**  

March 19  
**Britain's Empires in the East and West**  

March 26  
**The "Exotic" Orient**  
Reading: Frank, *Objectifying China, Imagining America*

April 2  
**The Age of Revolutions**  
Reading: Armitage, *Declaration of Independence*; David Greggus, "The Caribbean in the Age of Revolution" and Maya Jasanoff, "Revolutionary Exiles: The American Loyalist and French Émigré Disasporas" (handouts)--BLOG POST #3 DUE.

April 9  
(NO CLASS)

April 16  
**The Deep Blue Sea**  
Reading: Linebaugh and Rediker, *Many-headed Hydra*

April 23  
**Enlightened Empires and Agents**  
April 30

**Toward a New History of Early America in a Global World**


**Grading:**

- Participation* 15%
- Three 4-to-5-page book reviews** 30%
- 4 blog posts 10%
- Final review essay (10-12 pages) 45%—due Monday, May 12 at NOON

*ORAL PARTICIPATION* is essential in a graduate-level seminar. I assign a participation grade for each student after each class. If for any reason you have a problem talking in a group, please speak with me and we can arrange an alternative method of assessment.

**NOTE ON BOOK REVIEWS:** Book reviews are not simply summaries of the book's contents; they are analytical essays. A good book review highlights the work's main thesis, or major arguments, and discusses the way the historian proves the thesis. The review should pay attention to the work's major kinds of primary sources and examine the work's particular methodology (social history, cultural history, political history, intellectual history, etc.). It should assess the work's strengths as well as its weaknesses. The conclusion of the review should address this question: What contribution does this work make to an understanding of the process of globalization in the early modern world? How does it relate to, modify, or confirm the approaches or conclusions in other books or articles read for the course?

It should be noted that these are *brief* reviews which require writing that is both concise and precise. IT IS ADVISED THAT STUDENTS NOT CONSULT PUBLISHED REVIEWS OF THE BOOK. The professor periodically checks student reviews against published reviews so as to preclude the possibility of plagiarism.
**Drop Deadlines**

The last day to drop a class without tuition liability is Jan. 28. If you drop by Feb. 11, there is a 33% tuition penalty. THE FINAL DROP DATE is Feb. 21, when there is a 67% tuition liability.

**Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

All GMU students are bound to abide by the Honor Code (http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/). One of the most common honor code violations is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a broadly defined term that includes a wide spectrum of violations. Put most simply, it is appropriating another person’s words or ideas as if they were your own. It includes, but is not limited to, the use of another person’s words without attribution or proper citation; submission of work that is not one’s own, whether the work is stolen, purchased, or used with the author’s permission; the too-close paraphrasing of another person’s words or ideas. If you don’t know if something constitutes plagiarism, ask the instructor. Students suspected of Honor Code violations will be turned over to the university Honor Board for disciplinary action.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student who needs academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.