

HIST 563—THE ATLANTIC WORLD

WKU On Demand

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Welcome to the graduate-level Atlantic World History course, which will cover the period from around 1300 to around 1800. This course is structured as a traditional book-and-an-article per unit readings course. This means that you will read one book and one article for each of the fifteen units in this course. I have assigned the book for each unit. Part of your assignment will be to find the article for each unit.

The Atlantic World is a field of history that, very generally, examines all of the regions that border the Atlantic Ocean, the areas and interconnections between those regions, and the people on the ocean itself. To say it's a broad field would be an understatement. To bring some sense of order to the course, the units are arranged thematically, covering the widest possible variety of topics.

Because this is a graduate-level course you will need to have some background in the history of the period and place. If you think you do not have the basic knowledge, don't worry too much. I would recommend finding one or (even better) two recently-published, college-level world history and U.S. history textbooks. Then read the chapters that cover the period of history from around 1100 to around 1850. There are many such textbooks out there, and if you cannot find one at a local library, most can be purchased online, in used condition, for just a few dollars. Any college-level text, any edition, will do. What follows are a few that have recently been used at Western Kentucky University:

1. Faragher, et al., *Out of Many: A History of the American People, Combined Volume*. Pearson Publishing, 2010
2. Roark, et al., *The American Promise, Combined Volume*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011
3. Duiker & Spielvogel, *World History, Combined Volume*, Wadsworth, 2006
4. McKay, et. al., *A History of World Societies, Combined Volume*, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012

For some of the units I have assigned chapters out of an Atlantic World History text, which will give you some greater specificity in that topic.

This is also an WKU On Demand course, which means that you can go at your own pace. In "live" graduate course the class would read a common book or article for each unit and then discuss the readings together in class. That discussion would include very specific questions that would help the class develop their knowledge. An WKU On Demand course, obviously, does not have that level of interaction. Instead, for each unit you will have some readings specific to a given topic and will write a series of essay questions on a variety of topics. Those essays will form the basis of your grade. While I am available via e-mail and will help you in any way I can, an WKU On Demand course also means that you will be on your own for much of this.

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact Student Disability Services in Downing University Center, A-200. The phone number is 270-745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from Student Disability Services.

REQUIREMENTS:

At the end of each unit you will complete a unit test and submit it via Blackboard. Each unit is worth 100 points, for a total of 1800 points. The final exam is worth 300 points. Grading scales are as follows:

- A: 1620 – 1800
- B: 1440 – 1619
- C: 1260 – 1439
- D: 1080 – 1259
- F: 0 – 1079

Because WKU has no system to award plusses and minuses (B+, C+, A-, &c.), these scales are firm. That is, a 1470 is a C, the same as a 1679. There is no wiggle room for this.

UNIT TEST (100 POINTS EACH):

This course will consist of one book that I assign, and then an article that you will find on your own. The exams are based on those readings. The first question on the unit tests will ask you to write a book review of the book for that unit. The second part requires a “knowledge contribution” that asks you to correct or add to a piece of information on Wikipedia. Please see the “Guides” section of Blackboard for more information on this. There are online “Guides” for each of these tasks. Subsequent questions on each test will ask you to analyze the readings for the unit in some fashion. Sometimes this will be within the context of the readings themselves. At other times you’ll be asked to analyze the readings within the context of other units. There is an online guide to writing essays under “Guides.” I expect you to follow those requirements absolutely. If you have questions about any of the requirements, it is up to you to ask. If you do not follow those requirements you will receive zero points for the question in which the requirements were not followed. The first exam becomes available once you review all the Guidelines. The second exam becomes available once I have graded returned the first exam. After that you can submit exams at a pace in accordance with the policies of the WKU On Demand Office.

FINAL EXAM (300 POINTS):

There will be a comprehensive final exam, consisting of three essay questions. It cannot be taken until you have completed all of the unit tests up to the point of the exam. The final exam will be available ahead of time, but you must take your Final Exam at a Testing Center. For more information in finding a test and can be submitted via Blackboard.

PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is academic theft, and consists of turning in work that is not your own. That can be anything from quoting material in a paper and not crediting the original author through a

footnote, to copying from a book, to pasting in the text from web pages or some Internet paper mill. The consequences for plagiarism in this course are simple: If you are caught plagiarizing on any assignment, **you will receive an “F” for the course and a letter reporting your conduct will be sent to your college dean recommending appropriate disciplinary action.** No exceptions. There is an online guide to plagiarism under “Guidelines.” It is your responsibility to ensure that you do not turn in plagiarized materials.

READINGS:

In general the readings will consist of a book and an article for each unit. You will be responsible for answering questions based on the contents of those readings. If you do not do the readings for each unit you will not be able to pass the class. You can purchase all of the books on Amazon.com, or check them out of a library if you have access. The articles are available through Blackboard.

Articles: You will use J-STOR to locate articles related to the subject of each unit’s reading. The subject of the article you should locate is explained in each unit’s exam prompt. Please refer to the “Guide to Finding Journal Articles” under Guidelines on the left-side menu in Blackboard. The subject matter of the articles must fall in the period covered by this class.

Books: You will need to locate these books online or through a library. As of May, 2014, the paper versions of each of these books was available online, used, for under \$10. I have provided the ISBN for each book to help you find the title. However, you should shop for the lowest price you can find, regardless of version, edition, or condition. The syllabus lists the books with shortened titles.

Optional Text: Douglas Egerton et al, *The Atlantic World* (ISBN 9780882952451)

Required Text (in order of appearance):

- Crosby, Alfred. *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*. New York: Praeger, 2003. (ISBN 0275980928)
- Seed, Patricia. *Ceremonies of Possession in Europe's Conquest of the New World, 1492-1640*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995. (ISBN: 0521497574)
- Thornton, John. *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400 – 1800*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. (ISBN 05212627249)
- Pestana, Carla Gardina. *The English Atlantic in an Age of Revolution, 1640-1661*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007. (ISBN: 0674024125)
- Cordingly, David. *Under the Black Flag: The Romance and the Reality of Life among the Pirates*. New York: Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2006. (ISBN 081297722X)
- Pestana, Carla. *Protestant Empire: Religion and the Making of the British Atlantic World*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009. (ISBN: 0812221508)
- Sparks, Randy. *Where the Negroes Are Masters: An African Port in the Era of the Slave Trade*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2014. (ISBN: 0674724879)

- Rink, Oliver. *Holland on the Hudson: An Economic and Social History of Dutch New York*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989. (ISBN: 0801495857)
- LaCombe, Michael. *Political Gastronomy: Food and Authority in the English Atlantic World*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012. (ISBN: 0812244184)
- Pritchard, James. *In Search of Empire: The French in the Americas, 1670-1730*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007. (ISBN: 0521711118)
- Cook, Alexandra Parma and Cook, Noble David. *Good Faith and Truthful Ignorance: A Case of Transatlantic Bigamy*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1990. (ISBN: 0822312220)
- Creighton, Margaret and Norling, Lisa, eds. *Iron Men, Wooden Women: Gender and Seafaring in the Atlantic World, 1700-1920*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996. (ISBN: 0801851602)
- Langley, Lester. *The Americas in the Age of Revolution: 1750 – 1850*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998. (ISBN: 0300077262)
- Landers, Jane. *Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolution*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2010. (ISBN: 0674062043)

THE ATLANTIC WORLD UNITS

Unit 1: Introductions to the Atlantic World

Objective: Students will be able to define and describe the field of Atlantic World history.

Articles: “Preface,” “Introduction,” and “Chapter 1: Three Concepts of Atlantic History” in Armitage, David, and Braddick, Michael, eds. *The British Atlantic World: 1500 – 1800*; “Chapter 1: Antecedents,” “Chapter 2: Commencement,” and “Chapter 3: “Conquests,” in Benjamin, Thomas, *The Atlantic World: Europeans, Africans, Indians and Their Shared History, 1400 – 1900*. [[All on Blackboard site in PDF.](#)]

Sample Article Topics: Atlantic World; Atlantic World Historiography; Atlantic history; Introduction to the Atlantic World; What is the Atlantic World; The idea of Atlantic History

Unit 2: The Atlantic Environment

Objective: Students will be able to describe and analyze the environmental impact of the Atlantic exchange.

Book: Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange*.

Sample Article Topics: Columbian exchange; ecological imperialism; biological imperialism; Colonial America natural environment; Colonial American disease

Unit 3: The Comparative Atlantic

Objective: Students will be able to make a comparative analysis of differing ideas of conquest in the Atlantic World.

Book: Seed, *Ceremonies of Possession*.

Sample Article Topics: Atlantic World conquest; Atlantic World colonization; Atlantic World expansion; Atlantic World imperialism; Atlantic World territories

Unit 4: Africa and the Atlantic World

Objective: Students will be able to analyze the way that interactions between Africans and Europeans shaped their shared experience in the Atlantic World.

Book: Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World*.

Sample Article Topics: Atlantic creoles; Gorée Island; Elmina slave trade; Benguela slave trade.

Unit 5: Seventeenth-Century Revolutions

Objective: Students will be able to analyze the Atlantic impact of the English Civil War.

Book: Pestana, *The English Atlantic in an Age of Revolution*.

Sample Article Topics: Atlantic World; English Civil War; Atlantic World maritime trade; The English Civil War and Barbados; The English Civil War and Atlantic World

Unit 6: The Pirates' Atlantic World

Objective: Students will be able to analyze the role of piracy in the maritime Atlantic economy.

Book: Cordingly, *Under the Black Flag*.

Sample Article Topics: Atlantic piracy; Golden age of piracy; Edward Teach; Barbados and piracy; Atlantic World privateering; Atlantic World corsairs

Unit 7: Religion in the Atlantic World

Objective: Students will be able to analyze the religious imperatives driving British Atlantic World interactions.

Book: Pestana, *Protestant Empire*.

Sample Article Topics: Puritans in the Atlantic World; The Atlantic World and the Great Awakening; Slavery and religion in the Atlantic World; The Atlantic World and Anglicanism

Unit 8: Slavery and the Atlantic World

Objective: Students will be able to analyze the nature of gender in the Atlantic World.

Book: Sparks, *Where the Negroes Are Masters*.

Sample Article Topics: Atlantic World slavery; Atlantic World slave trade; Muslim slaves in the Atlantic World; The transatlantic slave trade

Unit 9: Cultural and Economic Tug-of-War

Objective: Students will be able to comparatively analyze the role of the Dutch in the Atlantic World.

Book: Rink, *Holland on the Hudson*.

Sample Article Topics: New Netherland and the Atlantic World; Beverwyck and the Atlantic World; The Atlantic World and Beverwijck; The Atlantic World fur trade

Unit 10: Food in the Atlantic World

Objective: Students will be able to analyze food as a political symbol of Atlantic World exchange.

Book: LaCombe, *Political Gastronomy*.

Sample Article Topics: Atlantic World cuisine; Atlantic World food history; Atlantic World diet; Atlantic World crops; Atlantic World exchange of plants

Unit 11: The French Atlantic World

Objective: Students will be able to comparatively analyze the role of the French in the Atlantic World.

Book: Pritchard, *In Search of Empire*.

Sample Article Topics: The fur trade; French Canada; French Louisiana; The French Atlantic World; French Caribbean; French Age of Exploration

Unit 12: Honor and the Atlantic World

Objective: Students will be able to analyze the role of honor in Latin American gender relations.

Book: Cook and Cook, *Good Faith and Truthful Ignorance*

Sample Article Topics: Honor and the Atlantic World; Marriage in the Atlantic World marriage; Manhood in the Atlantic World

Unit 13: Atlantic Identity

Objective: Students will be able to analyze the context of gender in the colonial Atlantic.

Book: Creighton and Norling, eds. *Iron Men, Wooden Women*

Sample Article Topics: The Atlantic World and gender; gender and piracy and the Atlantic World; Manhood in the Atlantic World

Unit 14: Revolutions in the Atlantic—I

Objective: Students will be able to analyze the interrelated nature of Atlantic World Revolutions.

Book: Langley, *The Americas in the Age of Revolution*

Sample Article Topics: The Atlantic World in the Age of Revolution; The French Revolution in the Caribbean; St. Domingue

Unit 15: Revolutions in the Atlantic—II

Objective: Students will be able to comparatively analyze the impact of Atlantic revolutions on Atlantic creoles, and vice versa.

Book: Landers, *Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolution*.

Sample Article Topics: Atlantic World Marronage; Maroons in the Atlantic World; Quilombolas;