

History 563 The Atlantic World  
Department of History  
Western Kentucky University



Fall 2016  
Frances Kolb  
frances.kolb@wku.edu

Course Description

This online graduate course is a study of Atlantic History from the early interactions of the peoples of Africa, Europe, and the Americas from the mid-fifteenth century through the nineteenth century. Atlantic connections of diverse peoples created new worlds. While the course is mostly chronological, significant themes that it will explore include the trans-Atlantic slave trade, the experiences of American peoples of imperial expansion, the shifts in Atlantic economies, and the Age of Revolutions. Additionally, the course will include discussions of competing empires as well as the formation of Atlantic World and New World communities, societies, and peoples.

How will this course run? Our readings will focus for the most part on secondary literature. At the beginning of each week, a student review of the week's readings will circulate to the class with several questions to prompt discussion. Discussion will take place on the Discussion Board in Blackboard. Each student is responsible for at least 4 quality posts every week. Posts may consist of questions, observations about the reading, comments on another student's questions, etc. With these posts, quality is more important than quantity! The instructor will add questions to prompt or direct discussion as well besides posting announcements at the beginning of the

week. Each student will be responsible for signing-up to review two week's readings. Additionally, there is a review essay due at the end of the semester on a topic of the student's choosing. I hope that you will enjoy the readings for this class, especially the books.

### Required Books

(all of these should be fairly easy to acquire at reduced prices off of Amazon and many are available as ebooks through the library.)

Kathleen Duval, *Independence Lost: Lives on the Edge of the American Revolution* (New Yor: Random House, 2015).

Audrey Horning, *Ireland in the Virginia Sea: Colonialism in the British Atlantic* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2013).

Jane Landers, ed., *Slaves, Subjects and Subversives: Blacks in Colonial Latin America* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006).

Kris Lane, *Pillaging Empire: Piracy in the Atlantic, 1500-1750* (Armonk, NY: ME Sharpe, 1998).

Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World* (Cornell University Press, 2010).

Michael Oberg, *The Head in Edward Nugent's Hand: Roanoke's Forgotten Indians* (Philadelphia: UPenn Press, 2008).

Brett Rushforth, *Bonds of Alliance: Indigenous and African Slavery in New France* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2012).

All other articles and excerpts from books will be posted on blackboard.

### ADA

ADA notice: Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room A200, Downing University Center. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD. Please do not request accommodations directly from the instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

### Grades

With regard to deadlines, submit assignments by midnight of the due date. For example, assignments due October 4, must be submitted by 11:59 pm the night of October 4. All assignments submitted after the deadline will lose 10 points each day (without prior consent of the instructor). If you do come across a problem, please email the instructor so that we can adjust the deadline. Submitting book reviews in a timely fashion is particularly important given that they are the basis for the week's discussion.

Participation in Weekly Discussions	35%
Book Reviews(2)	15 %
Final Review Essay	35%

### Participation

See above course description. The grade will be based upon quality and timeliness of participation in the week's discussion. Each student may skip one week of posting during the semester without penalty.

### Book Review

In the 3-4 page book review (double spaced), students will address the following objectives: identify the central argument and significant contributions of the book, the strengths of the book as a secondary source, the weaknesses or problems with the work, the sources the writer uses. The review should also provide a discussion of the format of the book and a general overview of its content. Submitted with the book review should be approximately 4-5 discussion questions.

### Final Review Essay

Approximately 10 page extended review of scholarship on a subject of the student's choosing. The goal of this assignment is to examine how scholarship relating to your topic has changed over time. What have different authors contributed? Was one work foundational? How did another author build upon it? How did trends in history influence the study of the subject you have chosen?

- September 24, Topics for the review essay are due.
- October 22, A list of books and articles to be reviewed are due.
- December 9, The final review essay is due by noon.

(Students are welcome to submit any and all of these assignments in advance of their due dates.)

**Plagiarism**-will not be tolerated. All written work will be checked for plagiarism. For a full discussion of plagiarism see the Academic Honesty policy. In your writing, you *must* attribute anything that is not your own idea to its author. If you plagiarize, you will receive an F for the course. For a full discussion of Plagiarism and Academic Integrity please see <http://www.wku.edu/csa/policies/plagiarism.php>.

## **Course Schedule**

### Week 1: August 22, Introduction

Alison Games, "Atlantic History: Definitions, Challenges, and Opportunities" *American Historical Review* 111 (2006), 741-757

David Armitage, "Three Concepts of Atlantic History," in David Armitage and Michael Braddok, eds., *The British Atlantic World 1500-1800* (2002)

Eliga Gould, "Entangled Histories, Entangled Worlds": The English-Speaking Atlantic as a Spanish Periphery," *AHR* 112.3(2007): 764-86.

Bernard Bailyn, *Atlantic History: Concept and Contours* (excerpt)

**Sign-up for book reviews by August 27.**

### Week 2: August 29, Africa and the Early Atlantic

Jane Landers, ed., *Slaves, Subjects and Subversives*

-Paul Lovejoy, "The Context of Enslavement in West Africa"

-Lynne Guitar, "Boiling it Down"

-John K. Thornton, "Central Africa in the Era of the Slave Trade"

**Review due Aug. 30, response posts by Sept. 3**

Week 3: September 5, Iberian Atlantic

Landers, ed., *Slaves Subjects and Subversives*

-Jane Landers, "Cimarrón and Citizen"

-Matthew Restall, "Manuel's Worlds"

Elliott, *Empires of the Atlantic World* excerpt (Blackboard)

**Review due Sept. 6, responses by Sept. 10**

Week 4: September 12, Commodities, Culture, and Trans-Atlantic Exchange

Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World*

**Review due Sept. 13, responses due by Sept. 17**

Week 5: September 19, Early Contact and Indian Worlds

Michael Oberg, *The Head in Edward Nugent's Hand: Roanoke's Forgotten Indians*.

**Reviews due by Sept. 20, responses by Sept. 24**

**\*\*\*\*Topic for Final Review Essay Due by September 24**

Week 6: September 26, Contact and New Societies in the Early Modern Atlantic

Peter Mancall, "The Raw and the Cold: Five English Sailors in Sixteenth Century Nunavut" *WMQ* 70.1(2013): 3-40.

Allan Greer, "Colonial Saints: Gender, Race, and Hagiography in New France," *WMQ* 57.2(2000): 323-348.

Jane E. Mangan, "Moving Mestizos in Sixteenth-Century Peru: Spanish Fathers, Indigenous Mothers, and the Children In Between" *WMQ* 70.2(2013): 273-94.

William S. Goldman, "Spain and the Founding of Jamestown" *WMQ* 68.3(2011): 427-50,

**Review due by Sept. 27, responses by Oct. 1**

Week 7: October 3, Indian Slavery and the French Atlantic World

Brett Rushforth, *Bonds of Alliance* (through page 134)

Laurent DuBois, "French Atlantic" in Jack P. Greene and Philip D. Morgan, eds., *Atlantic History: A Critical Appraisal* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).

**Review due by Oct. 4, responses by Oct. 8**

Week 8: October 10, Continued

Rushforth, *Bonds of Alliance*

**Reviews due Oct. 11, responses by Oct. 15**

Week 9: October 17, British Atlantic

Audrey Horning, *Ireland in the Virginia Sea* (through page 176)

**Reviews due Oct. 18, responses Oct. 22**

**\*\*\*\*List of Books to be reviewed in Final Review Essay Due by Oct. 22**

Week 10: October 24, Continued

Audrey Horning, *Ireland in the Virginia Sea*

**Review due Oct. 25, responses due by Oct. 29**

Week 11: October 31, Piracy and Imperial Competition

Lane, *Pillaging Empire*

**Review due Nov. 1, responses due by Nov. 5**

Week 12: November 7, Age of Revolutions

Kathleen Duval, *Independence Lost* (2015)

**Review due by Nov. 8, responses due by Nov. 12**

Week 13: November 14, Age of Revolutions Continued

Duval, *Independence Lost*

**Reviews due Nov. 15 responses due by Nov. 19**

**Thanksgiving!**

Week 14: November 28, Age of Revolutions Continued

Landers, ed., *Slaves, Subjects & Subversives*

- Renée Soulodre-La France, “Los Esclavos de Su Maguestad”
- Matt Childs, ““The Defects of Being a Black Creole””
- Stuart Schwartz, “Cantos and Quilombos”

Laurent Dubois, ““Our Three Colors’: The King, the Republic and the Political Culture of Slave Revolution in Saint-Domingue” *Historical Reflections* 29.1 *Slavery and Citizenship in the Age of the Atlantic Revolutions*(Spring 2003): 83-102.

Week 15, Work on Final Papers

**Final Papers Due by Noon December 9**