

HIST/AFRC/GSWs/LALS 2401
Indians, Pirates, Runaways and Rebels:
Unofficial Histories of the Colonial Caribbean
Fall 2022

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Wed 1:45-4:45



Agostino Brunias, *Free Women of Color with their Children and Servants in a Landscape*, c. 1770-96.
Brooklyn Museum.

This seminar considers the early history of the colonial Caribbean, not from the perspective of European colonizing powers but rather from “below.” Beginning with European-indigenous contact in the fifteenth century, and ending with the massive slave revolt that became the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804), we will focus on the different ways in which indigenous, African, European and creole men and women experienced European colonization in the Caribbean, as agents, victims and resisters of imperial projects. Each week or so, we will examine the experiences of a different social group and their treatment by historians, as well as anthropologists, archaeologists, sociologists, and novelists.

Along the way, we will pay special attention to the question of primary sources: how can we recover the perspectives of people who rarely left their own accounts? How can we use documents and material objects—many of which were produced by colonial officials and elites—to access the experiences of the indigenous, the enslaved, and the poor? We will have some help approaching these questions from the knowledgeable staff at the Penn Museum, the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, and the Van Pelt Library.

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution:

• **Participation (20%):**

Active, informed participation in every class is required. As a discussion-based seminar, the course can only be successful if students complete the assigned reading thoroughly

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and thoughtfully, arriving in class prepared to talk about it. Often, you will be given reading questions beforehand; you should be able to discuss those questions in class and cite examples from our texts to support your conclusions. During our class discussions, you are expected to engage your fellow students, responding to their perspectives and questions in addition to those of the instructor. Your participation grade will be determined by the quality of your comments more than their quantity. This portion of your final grade will also include your contributions to in-class exercises. Any absences will negatively affect your grade.

- **Response Papers (20%)**

Students are required to submit five short (1-2 page) papers that respond to our weekly readings. Students may choose the weeks for which they write their papers, but **three of the five papers must be handed in before the fall break**. Response papers should be submitted through Canvas *no later than 2:00* on the day we discuss the readings addressed in the paper.

Response papers should address one of the prompts listed below, incorporating specific examples (cited, with page numbers) from the texts. Students may not respond to the same prompt more than twice. ****The selected prompt should be written at the top of each paper.****

1. How would you characterize the relationship between the population studied this week (Tainos, pirates, servants, maroons, etc.) and early modern colonialism? Did this group resist, facilitate, or accommodate the colonial project, or did they respond in more complex, varied, ways? How did they in turn influence European colonization?
2. If more than one secondary reading was assigned: compare the authors' approaches to the week's topic. Are they responding to similar research questions, and if so, how do their conclusions differ? Do they use similar sources? Which reading is more compelling, and why?
3. Identify one primary source referenced in the reading. What is it? Who wrote or created it, when, and *why*? Explain in some detail *how* the author of our secondary reading made use of the source. What argument did the author construct, using this source as evidence? Explain why you find this argument convincing, or not.
4. If we read a primary document, identify and contextualize it: what is it, who created it, when, and *why*? What does it tell us about the group being studied this week, and/or about colonialism in the early modern Caribbean?
5. On occasion, questions will be provided for a particular set of readings. Check the weekly announcements on Canvas for such opportunities.

- **Primary document research paper (25%) and presentation (10%):** Each student will locate one relevant primary source and write an 8-10 page paper that situates the source in its historical context. The source may be found in the Van Pelt stacks, in the Kislak Center, online, or even in the Penn Museum. Students must incorporate relevant books and articles from the course syllabus as well as outside secondary readings to support their analysis. A proposal will be due, through Canvas, on **Monday, October XX**. Final research papers are due on **Wednesday, November XX**. All students will also give a

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formal presentation of their research in class, on a date TBD. The presentation should be a polished, concise, 10-minute synopsis of the major research findings. More details on the proposal, paper, and presentation will be distributed in a separate assignment sheet.

- **Final paper (25%):** A final paper will be due on **12/XX**. The assignment sheet will be distributed on December X.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic honesty is fundamental to our community. The Penn Code of Academic Integrity can be found online (http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/ai_codeofacademicintegrity.html).

Violations of that Code, including intentional and unintentional acts of plagiarism, will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and may result in failure for the course.

According to the Penn Code of Academic Integrity, plagiarism includes “[u]sing the ideas, data, or language of another without specific or proper acknowledgment. Example: copying another person’s paper, article, or computer work and submitting it for an assignment, cloning someone else’s ideas without attribution, failing to use quotation marks where appropriate, etc.”

Paraphrased ideas and directly quoted text must be cited properly in all written work. If you have questions about how to cite sources correctly, consult with Dr. Fabella or the Weingarten Learning Resource Center.

Books for purchase at the Penn bookstore

Barbara Bush, *Slave Women in Caribbean Society: 1650-1838* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990)

Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World: the Story of the Haitian Revolution* (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2004)

Simon Newman, *A New World of Labor: the Development of Plantation Slavery in the British Atlantic* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013)

Marcus Rediker, *Villains of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the Golden Age* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2004)

Coursepack

Readings followed by “CP” can be found in the coursepack, available for purchase at the Campus Copy Center, 3907 Walnut St., for \$33.

Class Meeting Schedule

Week 1 (8/30): Introduction

Week 2 (9/6): Tainos and Caribs

- From *The Caribbean: A History of the Region and its Peoples*, ed. Stephan Palmie et al. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011), (CP):
 - L. Antonio Curet, “The Earliest Settlers”
 - Reinaldo Funes Monzote, “The Columbian Moment: Politics, Ideology and Biohistory”

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- Jalil Sued-Badillo, "From Tainos to Africans in the Caribbean: Labor, Migration, and Resistance"
- Lynne A. Guitar, "Negotiations of Conquest"
- Bartolomé de las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*, selections (CP)

Week 3 (9/13): Privateers, buccaneers, and pirates

Marcus Rediker, *Villains of All Nations*

****2:00:** Class will begin in the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts (6th floor of Van Pelt Library, room 626), where we will learn about and work with Caribbean-related documents from the sixteenth-nineteenth centuries! The second half of class will be held in our regular classroom.

Week 4 (9/20): Indentured laborers and the transition to slavery

Simon Newman, *A New World of Labor: the Development of Plantation Slavery in the British Atlantic*, pg. 1-108.

Jenny Shaw, "To Live in Perpetual Noise and Hurry: Creating Communities on Caribbean Plantations," in *Everyday Life in the Early English Caribbean* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia, 2013), 71-100. (CP)

Richard Ligon, *A True and Exact History of the Island of Barbados*, ed. Karen Ordahl Kupperman (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2011), 93-99. (CP)

****3:30:** Visit from Nick Okrent, Reference Librarian. Bring your laptops for an in-class workshop on searching for sources.

Week 5 (9/27): Plantation slaves and slave society

Newman, *A New World of Labor*, pg. 189-257.

Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, 1-59.

BRING TO CLASS ONE PRIMARY SOURCE from Van Pelt that you are considering for your research project. (If the source is located in the Special Collections department, please display a photographed image.) You will be asked to identify the source: What is it? Who produced it (include details regarding the author's/artist's personal history)? When and where was it created and published? To the best of your ability, situate the source in its historical context: Why was it created? Who was meant to see it? What purpose was it intended to serve? What message does it communicate?

Week 6 (10/4): Enslaved women, families and reproduction

Barbara Bush, *Slave Women in Caribbean Society*, chapters 2, 4, 6 and 7

*Sign up for individual meetings on 10/9 and 10/10

10/8: PRELIMINARY RESEARCH QUESTIONS DUE – submit on Canvas

*****NOTE: The last day to drop a class is 10/10**

Week 7 (10/11): No class meeting

Individual student meetings will be held in COLL 208C on 10/9 and 10/10 to discuss research questions and any other class-related concerns.

Week 8 (10/18): Maroon communities

Barbara Bush, *Slave Women in Caribbean Society*, chapter 5.

Richard Price, ed. *Maroon Societies: Rebel Slave Communities in the Americas*, part 5, pp. 227-292. (CP)

10/23: PRIMARY DOCUMENT RESEARCH PROPOSALS DUE –submit on Canvas

Week 9 (10/25): Black Carib resistance

Christopher Taylor, *Black Carib Wars: Freedom, Survival and the Making of the Garifuna* (e-copy available through Franklin) –we will discuss the entire book

3:25 - Meet in the Kress Entrance Lobby of the Penn Museum – We will see Taino and Carib artifacts and participate in an object-based learning exercise.

Week 10 (11/1): Free African-descended people

Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, chapter 3

John Garrigus, “Blue and Brown: Contraband Indigo and the Rise of a Free Colored Class in Saint Domingue,” *The Americas* (October 1993), 233-263. (CP)

Susan Socolow, “The Economic Roles of Free Women of Color in Le Cap,” in *More than Chattel: Black Women and Slavery in the Americas*, ed. Barry Gaspar and Darlene Clark Hine (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996), 279-297. (CP)

Julien Raimond, “Observations on the Origin and Progression of the White Colonists’ Prejudice against Men of Color,” 1791 (CP)

Week 11 (11/8): White women in slave plantation societies

Trevor Burnard, ““Gay and Agreeable Ladies”: White Women and Mid-Eighteenth-Century Kingston, Jamaica,” *Wadabagei* vol. 9, no. 3: 27-49. (CP)

Natalie Zacek, “Between Lady and Slave: White Working Women in the Eighteenth-Century Leeward Islands,” in *Women in Port: Gendering Communities, Economies, and Social Networks in Atlantic Port Cities, 1500-1800*, ed. Douglas Catterall and Jodi Campbell (Leiden: Brill, 2012), 127-150. (CP)

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Jennifer Palmer, "Economies of Race and Gender," in *Intimate Bonds: Family and Slavery in the French Atlantic* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016), 98-128. (CP)

Week 12 (11/15): Rebels: the Haitian Revolution I

Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, chapters 4-7

Documents: TBD

11/22: PRIMARY DOCUMENT RESEARCH PAPERS DUE BY 4:00PM in COLL 208C

No class meeting - University operates on a Friday schedule

Week 13 (11/29): Revolutionaries and Founding Fathers, Creole and African: the Haitian Revolution II

Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, chapter 8-epilogue

Documents: TBD

Week 14 (12/6): Henri Christophe and Sans Souci, archives and fiction

Michel-Rolphe Trouillot, "The Three Faces of Sans Souci," in *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (CP)

Alejo Carpentier, *The Kingdom of This World*, excerpts (CP)

12/X: FINAL PAPERS DUE BY 4PM in COLL 208C