The University of Western Ontario
HISTORY 9307A
Early America and the Atlantic World, 1600 to 1820
Fall/Winter 2022-2023
Wednesdays (Fall), 9:30-11:30 a.m. Location: Lawson 1227

Instructor: Prof. Nancy L. Rhoden, Associate Professor
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or by appointment
Department of History, Main Office (Lawson Hall 2201)
Email: nrhoden@uwo.ca

Course Description:
This graduate course on early American history examines the settlement of the mainland British colonies of North America in the 1600s and 1700s, their development in the context of a British Atlantic world, the American Revolution, and the formation of the early U.S. republic. Particular attention is paid to understanding the character and diversity of British colonialism and the formation of the United States through comparisons with other New World empires as well as the rich context of the multi-national, multi-ethnic Atlantic World.

Course Syllabus:
Students do not need a background in early American history or have previous studied the history of the 17th and 18th centuries in depth to be successful in this course.

Course Requirements and Grading:

- Seminar Participation* 20% of the final grade
- Four Book Reviews (5-6 pages each): 10% each (totals 40% of the final grade)
- Major Paper (15-20 pages), due Dec 8, 2022: 40% of the final grade

Seminar Participation should be effective, relevant, and frequent. Students should come to class having read all the reading each week and prepared to offer comments, ask questions, describe arguments, and make connections between readings. Informed, weekly participation is vital to the success of the seminar. *Included in seminar participation grade is a brief oral presentation in week 9 (Nov 9) or week 10 (Nov 16) on students’ work-in-progress for major paper; the length of that oral presentation will depend on the number of students in the class and will be announced in class.
Four Book Reviews. Students are required to submit 4 book reviews (to be selected from the books that are required reading for our course). The titles that may be used for these reviews are: Kupperman (Week 1), Silverman (Week 3), Greene (Week 6), Butler (Week 6), Norton (Week 7), Breen (Week 10), Parkinson (Week 11), DuVal (Week 12), Polasky (Week 12) and Taylor (Week 13). **Due Dates for Book Reviews:** Book reviews must be submitted at the beginning of the class in which the material is to be discussed. Late book reviews, under normal circumstances, will not be accepted. If a student chooses to write more than 4 book reviews, the top 4 grades will be counted. The end of this syllabus contains some additional thoughts on book reviews. (A student who really wants to write a book review on Kupperman could do so, if he or she brings the completed book review to our first class. If you have questions, email me!) Students are cautioned not to write all of their book reviews in the last few weeks. If you find yourself wanting to write reviews of later material because it interests you more, then use your best time management skills to write these reviews earlier in the year, and then you still have plenty of time to work on your major paper.

**Major Paper:** For the major research paper, students are encouraged to select one of the weekly themes below (or another theme** selected by the student and approved by the professor) and write a draft article (a.k.a. major research paper) that either (a) answers a significant (yet “doable”) research question or (b) provides a literature review. A literature review may be considered an assessment of the state-of-the-field on a particular topic-- e.g. what have been the major developments in this field over the past several decades, and what are the current trends and opportunities. Students will need to read additional books and articles beyond the assigned readings, although the material assigned for that week certainly can (and should) be a part of the research. In most cases, it will be appropriate to refine and limit the research question or the literature review so it is narrower than the topics covered in one of our weekly sessions (narrower in content or geographic coverage, etc.) It is necessary for the paper to consider the impact of Atlantic, international, and/or multi-racial perspectives. Use of some primary sources is highly recommended, and some research questions may require extensive consideration of primary sources. **Students will submit a two-page proposal (outlining their intended topic) and also a bibliography** by email on or before **Monday, October 24, 2022.** The proposal will not be graded, but should be taken seriously, since its purpose is to allow the professor to give feedback and suggestions on the topic, the approach, and relevant sources. Paper topics must be approved by the professor. Students will also give **brief oral presentations (on Nov 9, 2022 and Nov 16, 2022)** describing their work-in-progress on their major paper; this will count toward participation grade. **The major paper is due December 8, 2022.** Students should submit one paper copy to Professor Rhoden (in person or to the History Department drop box) and submit another copy electronically by email. **The electronic submission date will be used as the official submission date. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 2% per day** if it is late (including Saturdays and Sundays).

**Having trouble imagining what I might mean by ‘another theme’? Here’s just one example: Maritime History. Interesting secondary sources would include:** Jesse Lemisch, “Jack Tar in the Streets: Merchant Seamen in the Politics of Revolutionary America,” WMQ 25 (1968), 371-407; Denver Brunsman, The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World (2013); Paul Gilje, Liberty on the Waterfront:
American Maritime Culture in the Age of Revolution (2007); Chris Magra, The Fisherman's Cause: Atlantic Commerce and Maritime Dimensions of the American Revolution (2012). To explore other options, send me an email, or come and talk to me.

***All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com. http://www.turnitin.com.

Course Materials:

Required Books/Readings:

- David J. Silverman, This is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving (2019).
  OR
  OR

These books are available at the university bookstore (except for Greene and Polasky which are both available through the library as e-book). Any edition is fine. Other readings assigned for discussion are available by accessing the electronic link within the syllabus (where supplied), or by accessing D.B. Weldon electronic course reserves (Go to lib.uwo.ca and go to “Course Readings” to get the electronic list (with links to full pdfs) for our class by looking it up by course number or professor’s name), or through our OWL course website (access through: https://owl.uwo.ca).
Methods of Evaluation:

Course Requirements and Grading:

Seminar Participation 20% of the final grade
Four Book Reviews (5-6 pages each): 10% each (totals 40% of the final grade)
Major Paper (15-20 pages), **due Dec 8, 2022**: 40% of the final grade

See additional details above for more detailed instructions about each course requirement.

Students must have no more than 4 unexcused absences to pass this course. All written assignments must be completed to pass the course.

Late book reviews are not accepted. Students will have to pick a different book review option if they cannot complete the book review on time (before the class discusses the book). Late major papers will be graded with a late penalty of 2% per day it is late (including weekdays and weekend days).

Brief oral presentations on major paper (in progress) will count toward the participation grade for that day. Students who are absent with an excuse on their presentation day will be allowed to give their oral presentation during the next class under normal circumstances. If that is not possible, they will be able to present to the course professor in lieu of a class presentation. If the absence is an unexcused absence, there will not be an opportunity to make up the missed presentation.

Graduate students in History who require accommodation normally should see the graduate chair with their requests.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Major Weekly Course Themes and Readings:

September 14, 2022

Week 1. Exploration and Settlement

Required Readings:


**September 21, 2022**

**Week 2. Early Newcomer-Indigenous Relations**

**Required Readings:**


September 28, 2022


David J. Silverman, This is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving (2019).

Either:
Sacvan Bercovitch, “Rhetoric as Authority: Puritanism, the Bible and the Myth of America,” Social Science Information Vol 21 Issue 1 (Jan 1982), 5-17.

OR

October 5, 2022

Week 4. Servitude, Slavery & Labor Systems

(Read in the order listed below to follow more easily 17th/18th century developments.)


October 12, 2022

Week 5: Uprisings and Unrest in Late Seventeenth and Early Eighteenth Centuries


October 19, 2022

Week 6: Anglicization & Americanization: Political and Cultural Development, 1688-1750

Questions to consider: Was a pattern of British convergence overcoming the diverse origins of the British colonies in North America? Was each British North American colony or region a unique example of British colonialism? Was this period, 1688-1750, characterized less by convergence (anglicization or Europeanization) than by a process of Americanization?

Read EITHER Greene & Bumsted OR Butler & Murrin/Silverman


October 26, 2022

Week 7: Gender


Either


OR:

Linzy Brekke, “‘To Make a Figure’: Clothing and the Politics of Male Identity in Eighteenth-Century America,” in John Styles and Amanda Vickery, eds., *Gender, Taste, and Material Culture in Britain and North America, 1700-1830, Studies in British Art*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006), 225-246.

NOTE: two-page proposal (outlining intended topic for major paper) and also a bibliography is due by email on or before 11:59 p.m. on MONDAY, October 24, 2022. (The beginning of this week)

November 2, 2022 – No class.

Week 8: Western First Term Study Break is Oct 31-Nov 6, 2022.
November 9, 2022

Week 9: Religion and Religious Pluralism in mid-eighteenth century


**NOTE: Some students will give brief oral presentations in class on November 9, 2022 describing their work-in-progress on their major paper.**

November 16, 2022

Week 10: Material Culture, Consumerism, and Identity


Nancy Christie, “Merchant and Plebeian Commercial Knowledge in Montreal and Quebec, 1760-1820,” *Early American Studies* Vol 13 Issue 4 (Fall 2015), 856-880. [Read either Christie or O’Connor]

**NOTE:** Some students will give brief oral presentations in class on November 16, 2022 describing their work-in-progress on their major paper.

**November 23, 2022**

**Week 11: American Revolution: Anglo-American Dispute vs. Internal Conflict?**


Vernon P. Creviston, “‘No King unless it be a Constitutional King’: Rethinking the Place of the Quebec Act in the Coming of the American Revolution,” *Historian* Vol 73 No. 3 (Fall 2011), 463-79. [optional]


**November 30, 2022**

**Week 12: The American Revolution from the Frontier or From Without**


OR


**December 7, 2022**

**Week 13: Nationalism and Identity in the Early Nineteenth Century**

Read Taylor and read either Brunsman or Bloch or Dresbach.


**Dec 8, 2022: MAJOR PAPER IS DUE. No Class. (Fall Term classes end on Dec 8.)**
Some of Prof. Rhoden's Thoughts on Book Reviews

Book reviews should acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of a book, its argument, its significance, methods/approach, and sometimes the selection and use of sources. A short descriptive summary is usually typical, to acquaint the reader with the scope of the book, but that description of its contents should be brief. Book reviews should contain far more analysis than description of contents. Still, describing the argument clearly and succinctly can be, I think, somewhat analytical, even if it has a bit of a summary quality.

It is important to describe the book's strengths, in terms of its argument and also the significance and various possible implications of the argument. You may be relying on the author, who will tell you directly or indirectly what he/she thinks is the significance of the work. I realize many of you have not read many other books on this topic, and so you may not have a lot of precisely relevant reading for comparison. You may choose to read other reviews (J-STOR and other databases like “America: History and Life” will help you find them) so that you get a sense of what others have thought of the book. Yet this is optional. Of course, if you use their perspectives you'd need to cite them. I have read them. Typically published book reviews do not reference other book reviews, but you are welcome to do so. Or you could merely read them to get a sense of how the book has been received. You'll notice that published book reviews vary a lot in terms of their style and contents. Sometimes it is hard to tell they are reviewing the same book! I do not believe that your book reviews must follow a specific pattern or template. You can do things differently.

You are welcome to write about the book's weaknesses, and every book has some. When discussing the argument, consider its effectiveness, its flaws, perils and pitfalls, its limitations as well as its strengths. Could some other details have been included, or others left out? (Remember, though it is not useful to state merely that it could have been a whole lot shorter. The author chose to write a book, not an article.) Are there any leaps in judgment between the proven and the argued? What is overlooked, overemphasized, underemphasized, or omitted? One important tip to take away: consider assessing whether the author managed to achieve the goals he/she set for the book-- did it do what it set out to do, and did it prove what it set out to prove effectively and convincingly? Why, or why not? All of these analytic matters are suitable for inclusion in your review, but I realize that one can't cover everything. Reviews, like all papers, take a specific angle or make a specific argument, and that shapes the content.

So, overall, an analysis of the strengths & weaknesses of a book (and its argument) is key to a review. You can and likely should also discuss its significance and/or implications. Beyond that, what you focus on is up to you, and depends on what angle or argument you are making overall.

Hope this is helpful, and best of luck!

Syllabus Last Revised: June 9, 2022. There may be alterations to the syllabus made before the end of August, although I will not change book selections.

***TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS***:

If you are thinking about taking this course and have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Prof. Rhoden at nrhoden@uwo.ca
Additional Statements

Accessibility Options:
You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (formerly known as Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. See: Accessible Education - Academic Support & Engagement - Western University (uwo.ca)

Request for Accommodations/Medical Issues

Students are entitled to their privacy and consequently they do not need to disclose personal information to their course professors. In the event that students feel the need to discuss personal information, they should see the graduate chair. Unlike undergraduate students, graduate students cannot be referred to Social Science Academic Counselling to have their medical or non-medical circumstances evaluated and to receive a recommendation for accommodation. Those facilities are for undergraduates only, and there is no process beyond the department to secure recommendations for accommodation. Our process is that faculty should deal with routine requests for extensions. However, a student’s request for accommodation (on medical, non-medical, compassionate grounds) should go to the graduate chair, Prof. Eli Nathans (enathans@uwo.ca) who will consult and communicate with faculty. Additionally, faculty and students should communicate with the grad chair about any case in which work is not submitted before grades are due. In the event that the graduate chair is also the course professor, then a request for accommodation can be taken to the department chair.

Copyright

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense.

For more information on plagiarism and other scholastic offenses at the graduate level see: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing
agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'At above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks are necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.
If a History graduate course professor suspects course work of possible plagiarism, or if a graduate supervisor suspects a cognate or thesis of possible plagiarism, the faculty member will meet with the student. If the issue is not resolved, the student then meets with the graduate chair to discuss this situation, and so that the student can present or respond to evidence. Afterwards the graduate chair will make a decision about whether misconduct has occurred and any penalties; this will be communicated in writing to the student within 3 weeks. The student may appeal this decision to the Vice-Provost (Graduate) within 3 weeks of the issuance of the chair's decision. If the student does not appeal, the Vice-Provost will review the case. The Vice-Provost may confirm affirm, vary, or overturn the graduate chair's decision or penalty.

Information on the appeals procedures for graduate students can be found here: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsgrad.pdf

**Support Services**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority.

• Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western’s Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page http://www.music.uwo.ca/ and our own McIntosh Gallery http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/

• Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/

• Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

UWO has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social, and academic needs of students, in a confidential environment. The Student Development Centre (SDC) has trained staff and an array of services to help students achieve their personal, academic and professional goals. See: Academic Support & Engagement - Western University (uwo.ca)

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangalen@uwo.ca.