

HIST 6310-001: The Revolutionary Atlantic World

Spring 2017
JO 3.906
Wednesdays, 7:00-9:45 PM

Prof. Eric R. Schlereth
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Office hours by appointment



Course Overview

Political revolutions reshaped whole societies in the eighteenth century. Throughout the western hemisphere new republics replaced collapsed European empires. Revolutionary ideas and, occasionally, revolutionaries crisscrossed the Atlantic Ocean spreading their influence far and wide. This graduate seminar explores the history of revolutionary movements and ideas in the eighteenth-century Atlantic world. This course will concentrate on the period from roughly 1760 to 1820. Readings and discussions will focus on recent scholarly interpretations of topics such as slave rebellions in Haiti, the role of sailors as political actors, the trans-Atlantic dimensions of religious prophecy, Native American participants in the American Revolution, and the American Revolution as a global event. Over the semester this course will also explore the rise and efficacy of “Atlantic History” as an analytical category, one that is increasingly used by literary scholars and historians.

Required Readings:

The following books can be purchased at the UTD bookstore or at Off Campus Books, 581 W. Campbell Road, #201.

Jeremy Adelman, *Sovereignty and Revolution in the Iberian Atlantic World* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009) ISBN-13: 978-0691142777

David Armitage, *The Declaration of Independence: A Global History* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007) ISBN-13: 9780674030329

Ada Ferrer, *Freedom's Mirror: Cuba and Haiti in the Age of Revolution* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014) ISBN-13: 978-1107697782

Eliga H. Gould, *Among the Powers of the Earth: The American Revolution and the Making of a New World Empire* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014) ISBN-13: 978-0674416949

Maya Jasanoff, *Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World* (New York: Vintage, 2012) ISBN-13: 9781400075478 (Paperback)

Susan Juster, *Doomsayers: Anglo-American Prophecy in the Age of Revolution* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003) ISBN-13: 9780812219517

Jane Landers, *Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011) ISBN-13: 9780674062047

Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, *The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2000) ISBN-13: 9780807050071

Janet Polasky, *Revolutions without Borders: The Call to Liberty in the Atlantic World* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016) ISBN-13: 978-0300219845

Cassandra Pybus, *Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the Americas and Their Global Quest for Liberty* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2007) ISBN-13: 9780807055151

Ashli White, *Encountering Revolution: Haiti and the Making of the Early Republic* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012) ISBN-13: 978-1421405810

Grading:

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| Participation | 25% |
| Weekly Questions | 10% |
| Book Reviews | 20% |
| Historiographic Essay | 45% |

Assignments:

1. **Participation.** You are expected to attend every class prepared for in-depth discussion of the week's readings.
2. **Weekly Questions.** In order to facilitate discussion, each student is required to submit two detailed questions about the week's readings by **3:00 PM on the afternoon before class. You will not earn credit for late questions.** These questions might raise points about evidence, argumentation, or historiography in regard to a given reading. In any case, your questions should deal with interpretive or conceptual issues. Reserve questions of fact for the classroom discussion.
3. **Book Reviews.** Over the course of the semester each student will write two book reviews on assigned readings, which will be due according to a schedule determined by the instructor.

Academic book reviews should:

- Briefly summarize the book's content and identify the author's thesis.
- Assess the argument and the evidence used to support it.
- Place the book in the existing scholarship.
- Provide an overall assessment of the book.

More resources for writing book reviews will be posted on eLearning.

4. **Historiographic Essay.** Students are required to write an essay (15 page minimum) assessing scholarship on a particular aspect of Revolutionary Atlantic History. This assignment will be due in my office, JO 3.918, by **5:00 PM on Wednesday, May 3.** You are required to submit a précis and a bibliography to the class by **3:00 PM on Tuesday, April 18.** The précis and the bibliography will count toward your final essay grade. We will discuss this assignment in class and I will provide examples well before this assignment is due.

Course Policies:

1. Cell phones must be turned off and laptops are not allowed.
2. All course communication not conducted in class will be made using UTD email addresses, and UTD email ONLY.
3. Late assignments will not be accepted.

| Academic Calendar | Readings |
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| Week 1. Introduction | |
| Wed. Jan. 11 | No readings |
| Week 2. The Atlantic World | |
| Wed. Jan. 18 | <p>Allison Games, "Atlantic History: Definitions, Challenges, Opportunities," <i>American Historical Review</i>, (2006).</p> <p>Francois Furstenberg, "The Significance of the Trans-Appalachian Frontier in Atlantic History" <i>American Historical Review</i> (2008).</p> |
| Week 3. Radicalism on the Seas | |
| Wed. Jan. 25 | Linebaugh and Rediker, <i>The Many-Headed Hydra</i> . |
| Week 4. Atlantic Revolutions | |
| Wed. Feb. 1 | Polasky, <i>Revolutions without Borders</i> . |
| Week 5. Self Evident Truths, But For the World? | |
| Wed. Feb. 8 | Armitage, <i>The Declaration of Independence</i> . |
| Week 6. The American Revolution and Its Discontents | |
| Wed. Feb. 15 | Jasanoff, <i>Liberty's Exiles</i> . |
| Week 7. Finding Freedom in the British Empire | |
| Wed. Feb. 22 | Pybus, <i>Epic Journeys of Freedom</i> . |
| Week 8. Imperial Aspirations | |
| Wed. March 1 | Gould, <i>Among the Powers of the Earth</i> . |
| Week 9. African Citizens of the World | |
| Wed. March 8 | Landers, <i>Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions</i> . |
| Week 10. Spring Break | |
| Wed. March 15 | No Class |
| Week 11. A Radical God? | |
| Wed. March 22 | Juster, <i>Doomsayers</i> . |
| Week 12. Research Week | |
| Wed. March 29 | No Class |
| Week 13. The Spanish Empire's Demise | |
| Wed. April 5 | Adelman, <i>Sovereignty and Revolution in the Iberian Atlantic World</i> . |

| Week 14. The Radical Caribbean | |
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| Wed. April 12 | Ferrer, <i>Freedom's Mirror</i> . |
| Week 15. Paper Workshop | |
| Wed. April 19 | Critique and Discussion of Pre-Circulated Précis |
| Week 16. The Caribbean Specter | |
| Wed. April 26 | White, <i>Encountering Revolution</i> . |

Please review important university policies at: <http://provost.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>

**** The professor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as needed throughout the semester. Any changes made to this syllabus will be announced in class. ****