

# AMH6116: Colonial America



## Overview

This class introduces students to the field of colonial American history. It begins with the planting of England's first permanent settlement in North America in 1607 and ends with American Revolution. Major topics include English settlement and Indian relations, cultural transmission and creolization, slavery and economic development, and the imperial crises and its consequences.

## Goals

Students will gain a sense of the broad historical progress of the British colonies in mainland North America, develop a critical perspective on the scholarly field and design and execute an original research project. You will improve foundational skills such as your ability to think critically, interrogate evidence, formulate arguments and conduct research.

## Requirements

1. Four 4-page essays on Bernhard, Pagan, Truxes and Wood. In these papers, students will synthesize and summarize the reading (2 pages) and provide a brief evaluation (2 pages). You are encouraged to use the in-class discussion questions for guidance. This is a formal paper that requires a very brief introduction as well as citations.
2. One 18-page research paper on any topic that is both within the scope of the course and approved by the instructor. A proposal and annotated bibliography is due on September 25. The paper is due December 12. This is a formal paper that should include thorough citations. Students are encouraged to begin thinking about possible topics immediately. You will give a brief presentation of your findings at the end of the term.
3. Participation (including presentations on December 4) is an important, graded component of this course. You are expected to consistently complete readings, attend class with a copy of the weekly reading and your notes and make substantive contributions to discussions. The reading load is heavy, so it is important that you use the two holidays to read ahead. For most of our texts, discussion questions will be provided in advance. Missing more than one class will lower participation grades.

Instructor: M. Pursell

## Grade Components

Essays	40%
Research Paper	50%
Participation	10%

## Grade Scheme

A	93% up
A-	90% to 92%
B+	87% to 89%
B	83% to 86%
B-	80% to 82%
C+	77% to 79%
C	73% to 76%
C-	70% to 72%
D	60% to 69%
F	59% down

## Key Dates

**September 18**  
Bernhard Essay

**September 25**  
Proposal

**October 2**  
Pagan Essay

**October 30**  
Truxes Essay

**November 20**  
Wood Essay

**December 12**  
Research Paper Due

## Readings

The required books listed here are at the UWF Bookstore as is the optional Taylor book (7). The other readings on your schedule are chapters and articles that will be provided as PDFs.

1. Virginia Bernhard, *A Tale of Two Colonies* (University of Missouri Press, 2011); 978-0-8262-1951-0
2. Eric Hinderaker, *The Two Hendricks* (Harvard University Press, 2010); 9780674061941
3. John Ruston Pagan, *Anne Orthwood's Bastard* (Oxford University Press, 2003); 0-19-514479-1
4. Randy J. Sparks, *The Two Princes of Calabar* (Harvard University Press, 2004); 0-674-01312-3
5. Thomas Truxes, *Defying Empire* (Yale University Press, 2008); 978-0-300-11840-7 (paperback)
6. G. Wood, *The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin* (Penguin Press, 2004); 9780143035282
7. Recommended: Alan Taylor, *American Colonies*, Vol. I (Penguin Press, 2001); 9780142002100

## Course Communication

If you have questions, contact me at [mpursell1@uwf.edu](mailto:mpursell1@uwf.edu) or at (850) 474-2684. During the weekday, I will reply within 24 hours or on weekends by the following Monday. Students are welcome to see me during my following office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:00 to 1:00 in building 50, room 143.

## Attendance and Assignments Policy

All assignments are due in an eLearning Drop Box, and all grades are posted in eLearning for students' to review. Missing a paper due date will result in an F for the assignment unless the student provides the professor (in a timely manner) with documentation for one of the following excused absences: a religious holiday, participation in an official UWF athletic event, legal responsibilities (such as jury duty), a death in the immediate family or serious illness. More than one unexcused will begin to lower your participation grade.

## Plagiarism

Several tools will be used to verify the originality of papers. If any part of any paper has been plagiarized, the student will receive an F on the assignment. In egregious cases, a report will be forwarded to the administration for disciplinary action. [http://library.uwf.edu/tutorials/writing\\_skills/avoiding\\_plagiarism.cfm](http://library.uwf.edu/tutorials/writing_skills/avoiding_plagiarism.cfm).

## Students with Disabilities

The Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) at the UWF supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, please notify the instructor or the SDRC as soon as possible. You may contact the SDRC office by e-mail at [sdrc@uwf.edu](mailto:sdrc@uwf.edu) or by phone at (850) 474-2387. Accommodations will be determined on an individual basis.

## Weather Emergency Information

Closures and delays are announced on the UWF website and broadcast at 88.1MHz. In the event of a hurricane, the UWF Home Web Page and Argus provide information on procedures, the status of classes and university closings. Emergency plans for UWF are available at <http://uwfemergency.org/hurricaneprep.cfm>.

## Course Schedule

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### WEEK 1

August 26: Introductions

### WEEK 2

September 4: The Atlantic Paradigm

Reading and Discussion:

Karras, "The Atlantic World as a Unit of Study"

Burnard, "The British Atlantic"

Wood, "From Atlantic History to a Continental Approach"

Thornton, "The Birth of the Atlantic World"

### WEEK 3

September 11: Planting

Reading and Discussion:

Bernhard, *Tale of Two Colonies*

### WEEK 4

September 18: Cultures Meet

Reading and Discussion:

Cronin, *Changes in the Land* (Selections)

**Bernhard Essay Due at 1:00**

### WEEK 5

September 25: Creolization

Reading and Discussion:

Pagan, *Anne Orthwood's Bastard*

**Proposal and Bibliography Due at 1:00**

### WEEK 6

October 2: Slave Trade

Reading and Discussion:

Sparks, *The Two Princes of Calabar*

**Pagan Essay Due at 1:00**

WEEK 7

October 9: Slavery

Reading and Discussion:

Thornton, *Africa and Africans*, chapters 4, 6, 7  
Berlin, "Atlantic Creoles"

WEEK 8

October 16: Indian Histories

Reading and Discussion:

Hinderaker, *The Two Hendricks*

WEEK 9

October 23: Empire

Reading and Discussion:

Truxes, *Defying Empire: Trading with the Enemy*

WEEK 10

October 30: Gender

Reading and Discussion:

Norton, "Communal Definitions of Gender Identity"  
Ulrich, "Hannah Barnard's Cupboard"

**Truxes Essay Due at 1:00**

WEEK 11

November 6: Economy

Reading and Discussion:

Henretta and Innes, Selections  
Rockman, "Unfree Origins"

WEEK 12

November 13: Crises

Reading and Discussion:

Wood, *Americanization of Benjamin Franklin*

WEEK 13

November 20: Revolution

Reading and Discussion:

Pagden and Canny, "From Identity to Independence"

Conway, "Britain and the Revolutionary Crises"

Lee, Brothers and Barbarians (Selections)

**Wood Essay Due at 1:00**

WEEK 14

November 27: Outcomes

Reading and Discussion:

McNeill, "The End of the Old Atlantic World"

Marshall, "Britain without America"

Nash, "Sparks on the Altar"

WEEK 15

December 4: **Student Presentations**

WEEK 16

December 12: **Research Paper Due at 4:00**