

## History 386: Colonial America

Fall 2016

Wednesdays, 5:00-7:30, 231 CCC

“Each age writes the history of the past anew with reference to the conditions uppermost in its own time.” —Frederick Jackson Turner, University of Wisconsin, 1891

“The boundaries of the colonial period of America have become mushy and indistinct.”  
—Gordon S. Wood, Brown University (emeritus), 2015

#vastearlyamerica

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Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00, Tuesday 2:00-4:00, and by appointment.

### Course Description and Objectives

History 386 will introduce you to the study of North America in the centuries before the creation of the United States. After completing the course, you will be able to:

- Describe the origins and history of early American societies
- Identify and interpret primary sources useful for studying early America
- Explain recent developments in the historiography of early America

### Required Texts (all available via text rental)

- Taylor, *American Colonies*
- Fischer, *Suspect Relations*
- Games, *Witchcraft in Early North America*

### Reaching Me

*Helping you learn is the **most important** and **most rewarding** part of my job.*

If you have any questions or concerns about the course, either visit me during office hours or contact me by email to make an appointment. I receive and reply to email more quickly than voice mail. Please put “History 386” in the subject line.

### Course Requirements

As with any other three-credit course, you can expect to spend 6-9 hours each week on out-of-class work. To succeed in History 386, you will complete all assigned readings, participate regularly in class discussions, complete written work in and out of class, and complete three

take-home exams. The exams will include both short-answer questions and essays. The written work on each exam will total about 4-5 double-spaced pages.

### **Grading**

- Quizzes and in-class work: 15%
- Attendance and participation: 15%
- Exam #1: 20%
- Exam #2: 20%
- Final exam: 30%

### **Attendance**

Success in this course depends heavily on regular attendance and active participation. Multiple absences (either physical or mental) will make it difficult or impossible to complete the course, whatever the reason. If you have to miss class, please notify me ASAP to explore your options.

### **Use of Student Work**

Students often benefit from seeing examples of strong work completed by other students. For that reason, I will sometimes distribute exemplary student work, after removing all identifying information. If you prefer that I not use your work in this way, please let me know.

### **Students with Disabilities**

I will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities. Any student requesting accommodation must meet with UWSP Disability Services staff as early in the semester as possible. No accommodation will be granted until I receive and agree to a formal plan approved by Disability Services.

### **Desire2Learn (D2L)**

All course handouts, grades, PowerPoint slides, and other useful information will be posted on our D2L site, available at <http://www.uwsp.edu/d2l>.

### **Academic Integrity**

Cases of academic misconduct, including plagiarism, will be formally reported following the policies laid out in UWSP's Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures. Plagiarism consists of submitting work created by someone else as your own. For more information, please ask me or consult the resources at <http://library.uwsp.edu/Guides/VRD/plagiarism.htm>. Students found to have committed academic misconduct will receive an F for the course.

## Course Schedule

Everything in the following schedule is subject to revision. All changes will be announced in class and on D2L. All readings, and hyperlinks, not in the required texts can be found on e-reserves: <https://mypoint.uwsp.edu/librarycoursepages/>

### **Week 1. Sept. 7.** Introductions

### **Week 2. Sept. 14.** 1491

- Piker, "Getting Lost" (2016) <http://blog.oieahc.wm.edu/getting-lost/>
- Taylor 4-5, 10-22, 23-28
- Richter, "Legacies of Power from Medieval North America" (2011), on e-reserves
- Games 3-25

### **Week 3. Sept. 21.** Encounters

- Taylor 67-79, 91-99, 117-25
- Richter, "Imagining a Distant New World," on e-reserves
- Thomas Harriot, "A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia," 1590

### **Week 4. Sept. 28.** The Rio Grande and the Hudson

- Taylor 79-85, 248-57
- Games 25-35, 109-11, 120-26
- Additional Alonso de Benevides documents

### **Week 5. Oct. 5.** Enter the English

- Taylor 125-37, 158-74, 187-97
- Games 39-48, 127-42
- Watch "Jamestown: America's Birthplace," 2007, <http://youtu.be/ohfAx4a-Ijo>
- Recommended: "Written in Bone: Forensic Files of the 17th-Century Chesapeake," <http://anthropology.si.edu/writteninbone/index.html>

### **Week 6. Oct. 12.** The Great Lakes

Take-home Exam #1 due

- Taylor 99-113
- Games 36-38, 111-20.
- Excerpts from the Jesuit Relations, on e-reserves

### **Week 7. Oct. 19.** Things Fall Apart

- Taylor 86-90, 138-50, 199-203
- Documents from King Philip's War, Bacon's Rebellion, and the Pueblo Revolt
- Watch "After the Mayflower" (*We Shall Remain*, part 1, 2009), <http://digital.film.com.ezproxy.uwsp.edu/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=7768&xtid=44689>

**Week 8. Oct. 26.** Proprietary Colonies

- Taylor 222-31, 258-72
- Fischer 13-54

**Week 9. Nov. 2.** Regime Change

- Taylor 275-92, 231-36
- "An Act Declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject and Settling the Succession of the Crown," 1689, [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th\\_century/england.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/england.asp)

**Week 10. Nov. 9.** Salem in Context

- Taylor 174-86
- Games 55-76, 160-66, 175-95

**Week 11. Nov. 16.** A new South

Take-home exam #2 due

- Taylor 150-57, 236-44
- Virginia laws, 1660-91, on e-reserves
- "The Evolution of Colonial Chesapeake Society," on e-reserves

**Week 12. Nov. 23.** Give thanks. No class.

**Week 13. Nov. 30.** Coming to America

- Taylor 301-37
- Fischer 98-130
- Get to know the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database, <http://www.slavevoyages.org/>

**Week 14. Dec. 7.** Awakenings

- Taylor, 338-62
- Fischer, EITHER ch. 4 OR ch. 5, and the epilogue
- Awakenings documents (e-reserves)

**Week 15. Dec. 14.** World Wars

- Taylor, 376-410, 420-437
- Watch *The War that Made America*, episode 1, "A Country Between," <http://digital.films.com.ezproxy.uwsp.edu/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=7768&xtid=44405>

**Final Exam: due via D2L, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 9:15 pm**