

39505 • Cañizares-Esguerra, Jorge
Meets TTH 930am-1100am GAR 1.126
(also listed as CTI 375, R S 366)
Office: GAR 2.140/ ph. 512-475-7694
Office Hours: T-TH: 11:00-12:30

The Bible in the Colonial Americas

From the moment Columbus first landed in America to the time Spain, Britain, and France lost control of their kingdoms in the New World, the Old Testament shaped the cultures of their empires. The Book of Samuel taught kings, priests, and the people the contested foundations of monarchical authority and popular sovereignty. While priests sought to recapitulate the lives of Aaron, Elijah and Jonah, magistrates aspired to be like Moses and Joshua. Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Leviticus, and Numbers served out lessons on territorial expansion and colonization and the proper way to design the arks and tabernacles that were local temples. By looking at the history of the Old Testament in these Atlantic empires unusual perspectives emerge: Blacks in late eighteenth century British America created exodus narratives and saw their communities as elect, modern Israels seeking migration to a Promised Land in Sierra Leone; Indians in Peru presented the silver mines of Potosi (and therefore their labor in the mines) as the “pillars” of the temple of Jerusalem and, therefore, of the Spanish Monarchy; Christian Ascetics sought to become African slaves of the Lord as their individual wills made metaphorical and actual use of the instruments of slavery to control the urges of their bodies; nuns set up cities of God and saw themselves as fully enfranchised citizens of republics, Israelite heroines like Deborah, Judith, and Jael, wielding swords against powerful occult enemies.

This seminar exposes students to a variety of perspectives on the central role played by the Old Testament in the construction of colonial cultures in the Americas.

Class will be conducted like an experimental workshop. In class, students will be asked to work individually or in groups and answer questions about assignments. To work students need to bring laptops and be connected on line. Assigned readings and images are posted on blackboard.

Texts

Bring a bible and laptop to class.

All the readings and assignments are posted on Blackboard.

Assignments:

Students will write three short (3 double-space pages= 800 words) papers solving a problem. Images and questions required to write the paper are posted on blackboard. Deadlines for the assignments are in the schedule below and extensions will not be considered.

There will be two 1 h 30' exams based on class and reading materials. The dates are marked on the schedule below. Bring a blue book. You are also allowed to bring your class notes (it is an open book exam).

Grading scale:

3 papers (20 points each) (see dates below).

2 exams (20 points each) (see dates below)

100-95: A (A+ to A-)

89-80: B (B+ to B-)

79-70: C (C+ to C-)

69-60: D

Disability:

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259

Schedule

- Week 1 Introduction
Aug 25-30 Canizares-Esguerra, "Typology in the Atlantic World: Early Modern Readings of Colonization," in Baylin & Denault (eds.) *Soundings in Atlantic History: Latent Structures and Intellectual Currents, 1500-1830*. (on line)
- Week 2 Traditions of Biblical Interpretation
Sept. 1-6 Biblia Pauperum (see questions online)
<http://pudl.princeton.edu/objects/ht24wj49c>
<http://www.amasis.com/biblia/ibp/index.html>
Images *The illustrated Litany of Loreto* [1752] (on line)
- Week 3 The Promise of the New World (Prophecies, Millennium)
Sept. 8-13 Christopher Columbus (ed.), *The Book of Prophecies*, (on line)
Image of Columbus (on line)
- Week 4 The Promise of the New World: Spanish America
Sept. 15-20 Acosta (on line):
Image *Gazophilatium Peruvicum* (on line)
Image *Elegias de varones ilustres* (on line)

Sept. 20. First paper due: Moses and Christ at Sistine Chapel (see paintings and questions on line)

Week 5 The Promise of the New World: England, Portugal
Sept. 22-27 Samuel Purchas, Frontispiece (on line)
Aleijadinho Prophets (on line)
Sermon Viera, *History of the future* (on line)

Week 6 Entangled Promises
Sept 29-Oct 4 Samuel Sewall, *Phaenomena quadem apocalyptica...Some few lines toward a description of the new heaven as it makes those who stand upon the new earth* (Boston, 1697) (on line)
Canizares-Esguerra, "Entangled Histories: Borderland Historiographies in New Clothes?" AHR Forum, AHR, Vol. 112, Number 3, June 2007 (on line)

Oct 4. Mid term

Week 7 Ten Lost Tribes
Oct. 6-11 Menasseh Ben-Israel, *The Hope of Israel* (on line)
Image Antonio Leon Pinelo (Issacar) (on line)

Week 8 New World Biblical Politics (foundational discourses)
Oct. 13-18 John Winthrop, *A Model of Christian Charity*, 1630 (on line)
Image Guama Poma, *Potosi*

Week 9 New World Politics (foundational discourses)
Oct 20-25 Images kings of Escorial (on line)
Bossuet: biblical political philosophy (on line)

Oct 20. Second paper due: Whitefield's *Britain's Mercies*, a sermon (see sermon and questions on line)

Week 10 Atlantic Black Bibles
Oct.27-Nov1 Joanna Brooks and John Saillant, "*Face Zion Forward*": *First Writers of the Black Atlantic, 1785-1798*;

Phillip Richards, "The 'Joseph Story' as a Slave Narrative: On Genesis and Exodus as Prototypes for Early Black Anglophone Writing," in Wimbush (ed.) *African Americans and the Bible: Sacred Texts and Social Textures*. (on line)

Week 10 A Female Bible
Oct 27-Nov 1 Image St Theresa de Avila and Santiago, co patrons of Spain (on line)

Images Our Lady of Guadalupe (on line)
Images Our Lady of el Carmelo (on line)

Week 11 Amerindian Bibles
Nov.3- 8 David J. Silverman, "Indians, Missionaries, and Religious Translation: Creating Wampanoag Christianity in Seventeenth-Century Martha's Vineyard." *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d ser., 62 (2005): 141-75 (on line)

Samson Occom, *The Collected Writings of Samson Occom, Mohegan: Literature and Leadership in Eighteenth-Century Native America* (on line)

Week 12 Wars of Independence (USA)
Nov.10- 15 Eran Shalev, A perfect republic. Mosaic constitution in revolutionary new England (William and Mary) (on line)
Ellis Sandoz (ed.) *Political Sermons of the American Founding Era, 1730-1805*, Vols. 1 & 2 (on line)

Nov 15. Third paper: Our Lady of El Carmel (see image and questions on line)

Week 13 Wars of Independence (Spanish America and Brazil)
Nov. 17-22 Sermons to be translated.

Week 14 Book of Nature and typology
Nov. 24-29 Bestiary (on line)
Antonio Veiria, Sermon of saint Anthony to the fish and other texts(on line)

Dec 1. Final exam.