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. Students need to bring laptops and be connected on line. Assigned readings and images shall be posted on blackboard or available on line.

Texts
Bring and laptop to class.
All the readings and assignments are posted on Blackboard or available on line (see links on syllabus).
We’ll use this website to consult the bible (http://www.biblegateway.com/) in two different versions: Douay-Rheims (Catholic) and King James (Protestant).
To find biblical texts in Latin from images, use this site: http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/efts/ARTFL/public/bibles/vulgate.search.html

Assignments:  
Students will write three short (3 double-space pages= 800 words) papers solving a problem. Deadlines for the assignments are in the schedule below and extensions will not be considered.

Exams (mid term and final)  
There will be two 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 a 4x6 notecard with notes. No late exams

Quizzes:  
Every class you have to be capable of identifying the terms, individuals, and texts whose works, images we will be interpreting. For example, if the schedule indicates that in week 3 we will be interpreting an image from Gaspar Escalona Aguero’s Gazophilatum peruvicum, you have to be able to identify who was Escalona Aguero and what is the meaning of the title of his book (make sure you identify places, dates, and significance correctly by using web search engines. In short, for every term, answer the what, who, where, when, and so what).

Grading scale:
3 papers (15 points each) (see dates below).
2 exams (20 points each) (see dates below)
Quizzes (15 points) (15 quizzes, one point each)
   100-90: A  (A+ to A-)
   89-80:  B  (B+ to B-)
   79-70:  C  (C+ to C-)
   69-60:  D
A4.0  A-3.67  B+3.33  B  3.0  B-2.67  C+2.33  C2.0  C-1.67  D+1.33  D 1.0  D-0.67
F0.0

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 (Jan 14-18)

**Traditions of Biblical Interpretation** (terms to prepare for quizzes: Bible of the Poor; Sistine Chapel)

- The Bible of the Poor (see questions online)
  - i. [http://pudl.princeton.edu/objects/ht24wj49c](http://pudl.princeton.edu/objects/ht24wj49c)
  

- The Sistine Chapel
  [http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cappella_Sistina](http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cappella_Sistina)

Week 2 (Jan 23-25)

**The Promise of the New World (Prophecies, Millennium)** (terms for quizzes: Columbus; Columbus’s *Book of Prophecies*; Stradanus; *America Retectio*; Joachim di Fiore; millenarianism)

- Christopher Columbus (ed.), *The Book of Prophecies*
- Image of Columbus (from Johannes Stradanus (Jan Van der Straet) *America Retectio*)

Week 3 (Jan 28-Feb 1)

**The Promise of the New World: Spanish America** (terms for quizzes: Valades; *Rhetorica Cristiana*; Escalona Aguero; *Gazophilatium peruvicum*; Juan de Castellanos; *Elegias de varones ilustres*; universal monarchy; Antonio Veiria; History of the Future)

- Image Franciscan Mission (Diego de Valades’ *Rhetorica Christiana*, 1579)
  [http://books.google.com/books?id=aqM9AAAAcAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=rhetorica+christiana&hl=en&sa=X&ei=5rrtUPy7Geje2QX-g4CQCw&sqi=2&ved=0CDEQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=aqM9AAAAcAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=rhetorica+christiana&hl=en&sa=X&ei=5rrtUPy7Geje2QX-g4CQCw&sqi=2&ved=0CDEQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false) (p. 207)
- Image Philip III as Universal Monarch (Gaspar Escalona Aguero’s *Gazophilatium Peruvicum* (1647))
http://books.google.com/books?ei=EbztUPXkEaic2QWBtIGoBw&id=xwt7iONMrrMC&dq=Gaspar+Escalona+Aguero+Gazophilatium&itp=iii

- Image Hispania Faithful Maiden (Juan de Castellanos’s *Elegías de varones ilustres* (1589)
  http://books.google.com/books?id=-5lSAAAAcAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=inauthor:%22Juan+de+Castellanos%22&hl=en&sa=X&ei=Qr_tULi_CeSA2QW1vHYDA&ved=0CEUQ6A
  EwAg#v=onepage&q&f=false (page iv)

First Paper February 4. Compare the millenarian visions of the assigned images in Valades and Escalona Aguero. Identify three important differences in the nature of the millennium the Franciscans and Philip IV aspired to build in America.

Week 4 (Feb 4-8)

**The Promise of the New World: Indigenous appropriations** (terms for quizzes: Felipe Guaman Poma; *Cronica y buen gobierno*; Huamanga; Potosí; amalgamation; Incas)

- Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala’s *Primer nueva cronica y buen gobierno* (ca. 1610)
  http://www.kb.dk/permalink/2006/poma/titlepage/en/text/?open=id2971047

Week 5 (Feb.13-15)

**The Promise of the New World: British America** (John Dee; Samuel Purchas; Elizabeth I; *General and Rare Memorials on Perfect Art of Navigation Hakluytus Posthumus*; Francis Drake; Walter Raleigh)

- Image the Founding of Elizabeth’s Navy (John Dee’s *General and Rare Memorials on Perfect Art of Navigation*, 1577)

- Image of the English as world settlers (*Puchas his pilgrimes*, 1625)

Week 6 (Feb 18-22)
The Promise of the New World: New England (Puritans; John Winthrop; Arbella; A Model of Christian Charity; City on the Hill; Jubilee)
- John Winthrop, A Model of Christian Charity, 1630
  [http://history.hanover.edu/texts/winthmod.html](http://history.hanover.edu/texts/winthmod.html)

Week 7 (Feb.25-27)
The Promise of the New World: Mexico in New England (Juan de Torquemada; Gregorio Garcia; Jose de Acosta; John Mede)

March 1. Mid term

Week 8 (March 4-8)
The Ten Lost Tribes of Israel (Antonio León Pinelo; Tratado de las confirmaciones reales; Menasseh Ben-Israel; The Hope of Israel; conversos; the “nation” of Portuguese merchants; Cromwell)
- Image of Peru and Nova Hispania (Antonio Leon Pinelo’s Tratado de las confirmaciones reales, 1630)
  [http://books.google.com/books?id=yzvk8gldm7QC&printsec=frontcover&dq=tratado+de+las+confirmaciones+reales&hl=en&sa=X&ei=vsTtUOGdE6S42QWyzYGAAw&ved=0CDcQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=yzvk8gldm7QC&printsec=frontcover&dq=tratado+de+las+confirmaciones+reales&hl=en&sa=X&ei=vsTtUOGdE6S42QWyzYGAAw&ved=0CDcQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false)
- Menasseh Ben-Israel, The Hope of Israel 1650

Week 9 (Mar 11-15)
Spring Break

Week 10 (Mar 18-22)
Biblical Kings (New England) (Half way covenant; Jonathan Mitchel; Willard Samuel; Nehemiah on the Wall in troublesome times; Character of the good ruler)
- Jonathan Mitchel, Nehemiah on the Wall in troublesome times, 1667
Second Paper March 22. Whitefield's *Britain's Mercies*. The editor’s introduction (Liberty Fund) argues that George Whitefield was a preacher who created the “Great Awakening”, which “perceptibly encouraged American independence.” Using this sermon argue against this characterization. How does the sermon prove the opposite, namely that Whitefield was a staunch defender of the British empire? Write a three-page, double-space essay

http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=816&chapter=692

Week 11 (March 25-29)

**Biblical Kings: Spanish and Portuguese Atlantics** (El Escorial; Kings of Judah and Israel; Portuguese and Catalan Independence of 1640; Antonio Vieira; House of Avis and Braganza)

- Images of kings in the palace-monastery of El Escorial (identify them and suggest why they were chosen)
- Antonio Vieira, *History of the Future and other sermons* (1640-1670)

Week 12 (April 1-5)

**Slavery: British Atlantic** (Samuel Sewell; *The selling of Joseph, a Memorial*; Ottobah Cugoano; *Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil of Slavery*; Raymund Harris; *Scriptural Researches*; Abolitionism; James Ramsay)

- Samuel Sewell, *The selling of Joseph, a Memorial*. 1700
  http://infoweb.newsbank.com/iw-search/we/Evans/?p_product=EAIX&p_theme=eai&p_nbicيد=H60H58HWMTM1Nzc2MDEwNy45Njg4NjA6MToxMzoxMjguODMuMTE3LiQ2&p_action=doc&p_docnum=1&p_queryname=5&p_docref=v2:0F2B1FCB879B099B@EAIX-0F3013EF2FA328F0@951-@1
- Ottobah Cugoano, *Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil of Slavery*, 1787
  http://find.galegroup.com/ecco/retrieve.do?sgHitCountType=None&sort=Author&tabId=T001&prodId=ECCO&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&searchId=R1&searchType=AdvancedSearchForm&currentPosition=2&qrySerId=Locale%28en%2C%2C%29%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%280X%2CNone%2C25%29+Thoughts+and+Sentiments+%3AAnd%3AFQE%3D%280X%2CNone%2C16%29Ottobah+Cugoano%2C%3AAnd%3ALQE%3D%28BA%2CNone%2C2NEF+Or+0LRH+Or+2NEK+Or+0LRL+Or+2NEI+2CNone%2C124%292NEF+Or+0LRH+Or+2NEK+Or+0LRL+Or+2NEI+
Raymund Harris. *Scriptural Researches on the Licitness of the Slave Trade* (1788)
http://books.google.com/books?id=1dUDAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA28&q=intititle:scriptural+inauthor:harris&hl=en&sa=X&ei=uw3wUMmqC6PM2AWZt4D4Dw&ved=0CDEQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

Week 13 (April 8-12)

**Slaveries: Portuguese America** (Antonio Vieria; Bahia; Maranhao; Jesuit missions)
- Antonio Vieira, *Children of God’s Fire*, 1633
  http://college.cengage.com/history/world/keen/latin_america/8e/assets/students/sources/pdfs/18fatherantoniovieira.pdf

Week 14 (April 15-19)

**Virgin Mary and the Old Testament** (Loreto; Judith, Yael; Deborah; Song of Songs; Proverbs; Book of Wisdom)
- *The illustrated Litany of Loreto* [1752]
  http://books.google.com/books?id=YuUCAAAQAQAJ&printsec=frontcover&q=The+illustrated+Litany+of+Loreto&hl=en&sa=X&ei=PZbtUIOHDYae2gXvooDIDA&ved=0CDQQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

Week 15 (April 22-26)

**Virgin Mary and the Old Testament in the New World** (St Theresa de Avila; Santiago; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Carmelites; Elijah; Our Lady of el Carmelo)
- 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)

Third paper April 29: Interpret two images from the Illustrated Litany of Loreto (to be assigned) in three double space pages.

May 2: wrap up.

May 3. Final exam.