Spring 2018
HIS 383M - New Approaches Atlantic History

Instructor: Jorge Canizares-Esguerra

Meets W 9:00AM-12:00PM GAR 1.122
Office: Gar 2. 108
Office hours: W 1-4 pm or by appointment
Phone: 512-475-7694

**Description**

We’ll explore recent literature on early-modern Atlantic history, particularly literature that emphasize trans-regional and trans-imperial connections. We’ll identify different models and approaches.

The goal of the seminar is to provide students with the skills to identify the structure and scaffolding of scholarly arguments: how historians build articles and books. The ultimate purpose of this exercise is for students to develop the skills to frame their own arguments as competitive research proposals.

**Requirements:**

Students will write weekly reviews of readings and a final research proposal

**Writing Assignments:**

Each week participants should bring to class a one-page analysis of the assigned book (not the journal article). The review should include:

- The book’s main thesis
- The work that each chapter does for the book’s argument (book structure)
- The nature of the sources: what are the sources for each of the chapters.

**Weekly meetings:**
Every week one student will be in charge of leading discussion and shall be responsible for identifying the historiographical currents addressed by the readings. To be prepared, the student leading class shall meet with the instructor.

Students will read an average of a book and an article per week, submit a weekly book review, and write a final research proposal.

**Fellowship proposal:**

The proposal, due at the end of the semester, should lay out a research question, defining the basic problem to be addressed, outlining the existing historiography of the question, and identifying a set of sources to be used in addressing the problem. The proposal should be approximately 15 pp.

- February 28: Topic for proposal approved (student should have met with instructor) Outline and Bibliography (one page)
- April 11: Presentation of first draft of proposal to class.
- May 2: Final workshop on proposal
- May 8: Final version

**Proposals should include clear answers to the following questions**

- Is the research question clear?
  It cannot be twenty question. It has to be just one.

- Is the hypothesis clear?
  You need to offer a tentative answer to the question explicitly

- Is the significance of both question and hypothesis clear?
  You need to address the issue of significance separately for both question and answer

- What historiography would question and answer challenge? Why?
  Significance is only clear when question and answer are cast within bodies of literature. This is not a book review or a historiographical essay. It is a justification of significance.
• How would the question be answered? What specific archive would yield an answer and why? Why is this the best way to answer the question? Is it methodologically innovative?
Questions can only be answered with research. You need to articulate a reasoning on pathways to answering, namely, sources and methodology. More important that a bibliography or a listing of documents, what you need to produce is a rationale of sources. Why do you chose these sources and not others? You cannot subordinate a proposal to sources. The “I have these sources and therefore my proposal is to read them” type of proposal is not allowed.

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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

General
1. January 17: What is Global History (pdf)

    Networks and information)

2. January 24: Informed Power (Brad)
3. January 31: Nation upon the ocean sea (Adrian)
   http://catalog.lib.utexas.edu/search~S29/?Xnation+upon+the+ocean+sea&searchscope=29&SORT=DZ/Xnation+upon+the+ocean+sea&searchscope=29&SORT=DZ&extended=0&SUBKEY=nation+upon+the+ocean+sea/1%2C7%2C7%2CB/frame&FF=Xnation+upon+the+ocean+sea&searchscope=29&SORT=DZ&3%2C3%2C3

   Objects:
4. February 7; Portrait of Woman in Silk (Kristie)
   http://catalog.lib.utexas.edu/search~S29/?Xportrait+of+a+woman+in+silk&searchscope=29&SORT=DZ/Xportrait+of+a+woman+in+silk&searchscope=29&SORT=DZ&extended=0&SUBKEY=portrait+of+a+woman+in+silk/1%2C5%2C5%2CB/frame&FF=Portrait+of+a+woman+in+silk&searchscope=29&SORT=DZ&1%2C1%2C

5. Feb 14: Rodriguez Alegria: Archeology and History (Adrian) (pdf)

   Intellectual history from below
6. Feb 21: Premo Enlightenment on Trial (Kristie)

7. Feb 28; Gomez The Experiential Caribbean (Chloe) (topic for proposal approved)

8. March 7: Schibineger. Secret cure of slaves (Ernesto)

9. March 14 (Spring break)

   Africa in the making of America
10. March 21 : Thornton & Heywood Central Africans Atlantic Creoles (Ernesto)

Capitalism and slavery
12. April 4: Burnard & Garrigus. The Plantation Machine (Ernesto)

Environmental history


Revolutions
15. April 25: Fitz. Out sister republics (Nicolas)

Final
16. May 2 (last day) (proposals)