

**LAH 5934: The Iberian Atlantic World**

T 8-10 (3-6 p.m.), Keene-Flint 13  
Office hours: M 10:30-12; T, W 2-2:45

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The seminar addresses the early modern Iberian Atlantic world to around 1750, a milieu shaped by European expansion and the complex interactions among peoples and environments that resulted. Main emphasis in the readings is on recent scholarship.

**Assignments and grades.** Students will submit short response papers (2-3 pages, double spaced) on the weekly readings, report on the readings, and suggest questions for discussion. The final paper (around 15-20 pages in length) will consist of either a historiographical essay or a research paper (or some part of one) related to the Iberian Atlantic. Consult me regarding your choice of topic by the end of September. Grades will be based on papers (two-thirds) and class participation, including presentations (one-third). Any *unexcused* absence will count against the final grade.

**Reading.** The following books are required. Additional readings are available online (journal articles and e-books) and as pdf's. You may wish to order J.H. Elliott, *The Old World and the New* (used copies are cheap). For general background reading I recommend James Lockhart and Stuart Schwartz, *Early Latin America*.

Felipe Fernández Armesto, *Before Columbus*

Stuart B. Schwartz, ed., *Implicit Understandings*

Alida C. Metcalf, *Go-betweenes and the Colonization of Brazil, 1500-1600*

Pablo E. Pérez Mallaina, *Spain's Men of the Sea*

Richard L. Kagan and Philip D. Morgan, eds., *Atlantic Diasporas: Jews, Conversos and Crypto-Jews in the Age of Mercantilism, 1500-1800*

Stuart B. Schwartz, ed., *Tropical Babylons*

**Weekly assignments**

Week 1: August 25 Iberian empires and the Atlantic world: concepts and historiography

Alison Games, "Atlantic History: Definitions, Challenges, and Opportunities," *American Historical Review* 111:3 (June 2006); Peter A. Coclanis, "Atlantic World or Atlantic/World," *William and Mary Quarterly* 63:4 (2006); Ernesto Bassi, "Beyond Compartmentalized Atlantics," *History Compass* 12/9 (2014), 704-716; Jean Frédéric Schaub, "Violence in the Atlantic" (pdf); Sanjay Sumrahmangan, "Holding the World in Balance: The Connected Histories of Iberian Overseas Empires, 1500-1640," *American Historical Review* 112:5 (2007), 1359-1385

2: September 1 The Mediterranean world and beginnings of Iberian expansion

Felipe Fernández Armesto, *Before Columbus*; Eduardo Aznar Vallejo, "The conquests of the Canary Islands" and Miguel Angel Ladero Quesada, "Spain, circa 1492" in *Implicit Understandings*; Helen Nader, "Desperate Men, Questionable Acts: The Moral Dilemma of Italian Merchants in the Spanish Slave Trade," *Sixteenth Century Journal* 33:2 (2002): 401-422.

3: September 8 Early contacts and conquest in the Iberian Atlantic world

“Early Kongo-Portuguese Relations: A New Interpretation,” *History in Africa* 8 (1981): 183-204; Camilla Townsend, “Burying the White Gods: New Perspectives on the Conquest of Mexico,” *American Historical Review* 108:3 (2003); Alida Metcalf, *Go-betweens*, chs. 2, 3; Janaína Amado, “Mythic Origins: Caramuru and the Founding of Brazil,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 80:4 (2000): 783-811; Michael Perri, “‘Ruined and Lost’: Spanish Destruction of the Pearl Coast,” *Environment and History* 15:2 (pdf); Ida Altman and Reginald Butler, “The Contact of Cultures,” *American Historical Review* 99:2 (1994), 478-503;

4: September 15 Perceptions and responses

Wyatt MacGaffey, “Dialogues of the deaf: Europeans on the Atlantic coast of Africa,” James Lockhart, “Sightings: Initial Nahua reactions to Spanish Culture,” and Peter Hulme, “Tales of distinction: European ethnography and the Caribbean” in *Implicit Understandings*; Michael Ryan, “Assimilating New Worlds in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 23:4 (1981): 519-538; J.H. Elliott, *The Old World and the New*, chapters 1, 2 (ebook); 231-250; Deanna MacDonald, “Collecting a New World: The Ethnographic Collections of Margaret of Austria,” *Sixteenth Century Journal* 33:3 (2002):649-663

5: September 22 Intermediaries, identities and individuals in the Atlantic world

John Charles, “‘More Ladino than Necessary’: Indigenous Litigants and the Language Policy Debate in Colonial Peru,” *Colonial Latin American Review* 16:1 (2007); Rolena Adorno, “The indigenous ethnographer: The ‘indio ladino’ as historian,” in *Implicit Understandings*; Metcalf, *Go-betweens*, chs. 1, 5-8; Nancy van Deusen, “Coming to Castile with Cortés: Indigenous ‘Servitude’ in the Sixteenth Century,” *Ethnohistory* 62:2 (April 2015), 285-308; Ignacio Gallup-Díaz, “The Spanish Attempt to Tribalize the Darién, 1730-50,” *Ethnohistory* 49:2 (2002).

6: September 29 Establishing and maintaining possession, authority, and law

Patricia Seed, “Taking Possession and Reading Texts,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 49:2 (1992); Alvaro Felix Bolaños, “The Requirements of a Memoir: Ulrich Schmidel’s Account of the Conquest of the River Plate (1536-54),” *Colonial Latin American Review* 11:2 (2002): 183-209; J.H. Elliott, *The Old World and the New*, chapter 4; William S. Goldman, “Spain and the Founding of Jamestown,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d ser., 68:3 (2011): 427-450; Marc Eagle, “Restoring Spanish Hispaniola, the First of the Indies: Local Advocacy and Transatlantic *Arbitrismo* in the Late Seventeenth Century,” *Colonial Latin American Review* 23:3 (2014),384-412; Lauren Benton, *Law and Colonial Cultures: Legal Regimes in World History*, pp. 31-66, 77-102 (ebook)

7: October 6 The maritime world

Pérez-Mallaina, *Spain’s Men of the Sea*; Alison Sandman and Eric H. Ash, “Trading Expertise: Sebastian Cabot between Spain and England,” *Renaissance Quarterly* 57:3 (2004): 813-846; David Wheat, “Global Transit Points and Travel in the Iberian Maritime World, 1580-1640” in *Governing the Sea in the Early Modern Era*, ed. Carole Shammas and Peter Mancall (pdf)

8: October 13 Atlantic networks

Kagan and Morgan, eds., *Atlantic Diasporas*; Juan Javier Pescador, *The New World Inside a Basque Village*, chapters 1, 2 (e-book); Ida Altman, *Emigrants and Society*, Introduction and chapters 5-7 (ebook or <http://libro.uca.edu>)

9: October 20 Formation of diverse communities

Ida Altman, "The Revolt of Enriquillo and the Historiography of Early Spanish America," *The Americas* 63:4 (2007): 587-614; Robert Nelson Anderson, "The Quilombo of Palmares: A New Overview of a Maroon State in the Seventeenth-Century," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 28:3 (1996): 545-566; Ruth Pike, "Black Rebels: The Cimarrones of Sixteenth-Century Panama," *The Americas* 64:2 (2007); Jane Landers, "Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose: A Free Black Town in Spanish Colonial Florida," *American Historical Review* 95:1 (1990): 9-30; Nancy van Deusen, "Diasporas, Bondage and Intimacy in Lima, 1535 to 1555," *Colonial Latin American Review* 19:2; forum on "Ethnogenesis," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d ser., 68:2 (April 2011): 181-246.

10: October 27 Religious life

Sara T. Nalle, *God in La Mancha*, ch. 4 (<http://libro.uca.edu>); Pescador, *The New World Inside a Basque Village*, ch. 5 (e-book); Sabine MacCormack, "Demons, Imagination and the Incas," *Representations* 33 (1991): 121-146; Metcalf, *Go-betweens*, ch. 4; Sarah Owens, "Food, Fasting, and Itinerant Nuns," *Food and Foodways*, 19:4 (2011): 274-293 (pdf); Stuart B. Schwartz, *All Can Be Saved: Religious Tolerance and Salvation in the Iberian Atlantic World* (ebook), chs. 6,7

11: November 3 Women in the Atlantic world

Mary Elizabeth Perry, *Crime and Society in Early Modern Seville*, ch. 10 (<http://libro.uca.edu>); Pescador, *The New World Inside a Basque Village*, ch. 3; Darlene Abreu-Ferreira, "Fishmongers and Shipowners: Women in Maritime Communities of Early Modern Portugal," *Sixteenth Century Journal* 31:2 (2000): 7-23; Karen Graubart, "Indecent Living; Indigenous Women and the Politics of Representation in Early Colonial Peru," *Colonial Latin American Review* 9:2 (2000): 213-235; Karen Vieira Powers, "Conquering Discourses of 'Sexual Conquest': Women, Language, and Mestizaje," *Colonial Latin American Review* 11:1 (2002); Altman, "Spanish Women and the Indies: Transatlantic Migration in the Early Modern Period" in *New Perspectives on Women Migrants in Colonial Latin America* (pdf)

November 10 No class

12: November 17 Economic development and exchange

Marcy Norton, "Tasting Empire: Chocolate and the European Internalization of Mesoamerican Aesthetics," *American Historical Review* 111:3 (2006); Christopher Ebert, "From Gold to Manioc: Contraband Trade in Brazil during the Golden Age, 1700-1750," *Colonial Latin American Review* 20:1 (2011): 109-130; Stuart B. Schwartz, ed., *Tropical Babylons*

November 24 No class

13: December 1 Interpenetration of Atlantic worlds

Ryan Dominic Crewe, "Brave New Spain: An Irishman's Independence Plot in Seventeenth-Century Mexico," *Past and Present*, 207 (May 2010); Benjamin Schmidt, "Exotic Allies: The Dutch-Chilean Encounter and the (Failed) Conquest of America," *Renaissance Quarterly*, 52:2 (Summer, 1999), 440-47; Michiel van Groesen, "Lessons Learned: The Second Dutch Conquest of Brazil and the Memory of the First," *Colonial Latin American Review* 20:2 (2011):167-193; Joseph Hall, "Glimpses of Roanoke, Visions of New Mexico, and Dreams of Empire in the Mixed-Up Memories of Gerónimo de la Cruz," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3<sup>d</sup> ser., 72:2 (April 2015); Barbara Fuchs, "An English Picaro in New Spain: Miles Philips and the Framing of National Identity," *New Centennial Review* 2:1 (2002), 55-68; and AHR Exchange between Eliga Gould and Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra in *American Historical Review* 112:5 (2007): 1414-1431.

14: December 8 Presentation of final papers

### **Suggested readings**

Ruth Pike, *Aristocrats and Traders. Sevillian Society in the Sixteenth Century*  
Ruth Pike, *Enterprise and Adventure. The Genoese in Seville and the Opening of the New World*

William D. Phillips and Carla Rahn Phillips, *The Worlds of Christopher Columbus*

Max Harris, *Aztecs, Moors and Christians*

Richard Kagan, *Urban Images of the Hispanic World, 1493-1793*

Kris Lane, *Pillaging the Empire*

Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert, *A Nation upon the Ocean Sea*

Tamar Herzog, *Defining Nations*

Alejandro de la Fuente, *Havana and the Atlantic in the Sixteenth Century*

John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World*

J.H. Elliott, *Empires of the Atlantic World*

Noble David Cook and Alexandra Cook, *Good Faith and Truthful Ignorance*

Ida Altman, *Transatlantic Ties in the Spanish Empire*

Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, *How To Write the History of the New World*

Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, *Puritan Conquistadors: Iberianizing the Atlantic, 1550-1700*

Stuart B. Schwartz, *All Can Be Saved. Religious Tolerance and Salvation in the Iberian Atlantic World*

A.J.R. Russell-Wood, *The Portuguese Empire, 1415-1808*

María Portuondo, *Secret Science. Spanish Cosmography and the New World*

Antonio Barrera-Osorio, *Experiencing Nature. The Spanish American Empire and the Early Scientific Revolution*

Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures. A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World*

J.R. McNeill, *Mosquito Empires. Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1620-1914*

Maria Elena Martínez, *Genealogical Fictions. Limpieza de Sangre, Religion, and Gender in Colonial Mexico*

Patricia Seed, *American Pentimento. The Invention of Indians and the Pursuit of Riches*

Anthony Pagden, *Spanish Imperialism and the Political Imagination*  
Anthony Pagden, *The Fall of Natural Man: the American Indian and the Origins of Comparative Ethnology*  
Colin Maclachlan, *Spain's Empire in the New World*

**Older works**

Charles Boxer, *Portuguese Society in the Tropics: the municipal councils of Goa, Macao, Bahia and Luanda*  
Charles Boxer, *The Portuguese Seaborne Empire, 1415-1825*  
J.H. Parry, *The Spanish Seaborne Empire*

**Edited volumes**

Richmond F. Brown, ed., *Coastal Encounters: The Transformation of the Gulf South in the Eighteenth Century*  
Franklin Knight and Peggy Liss, eds., *Atlantic Port Cities*  
Kenneth Andrien and Rolena Adorno, eds., *Transatlantic Encounters. Europeans and Andeans in the Sixteenth Century*