

Religion in the Atlantic World
EUH/LAH 3931
Spring 2015

Instructor: Brian Hamm
Office Hours: Thursday, 10:00-11:00 am in Keene-Flint 009 (or by appointment)
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Classroom: Keene-Flint 121 (Tuesdays), 111 (Thursdays)
Class Meets: Tuesday, 1:55-2:45 pm; Thursday, 1:55-3:50 pm

This course examines the roles that religion played in the development, consolidation, and disintegration of the Atlantic world from the voyages of Columbus to the revolutions of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Moving thematically, this course will explore how religion was conceived, utilized, re-imagined, and negotiated by Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans throughout the early modern period. Of particular focus will be the perpetually fraught relationship between religion and imperium. Lastly, throughout the semester, the challenges for the historian studying religion as a historical phenomenon will be analyzed and discussed.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To think critically about religion, especially its interconnections with culture, politics, and economics
- 2) To become more knowledgeable about early modern imperialism and its present-day legacies and consequences
- 3) To become more proficient at making concise arguments in both written and oral form
- 4) To improve one's writing abilities
- 5) To engage charitably with ideas with which one disagrees

Texts:

-- Linda Gregerson and Susan Juster, *Empires of God: Religious Encounters in the Early Modern Atlantic* (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2011)
-- Martin A. Nesvig, *Local Religion in Colonial Mexico* (Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2006)
-- Carla Gardina Pestana, *Protestant Empire: Religion and the Making of the British Atlantic World* (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2009)
-- Jon F. Sensbach, *Rebecca's Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World* (Harvard University Press, 2005)

Other readings (primary sources, journal articles, etc.) will either be provided by the instructor or available online through the UF Libraries.

Grade Distribution:

Response Papers/Participation	20%
Essay #1 (4-6 pages)	15%
Research Question/Bibliography	10%
Research Essay (10-12 pages)	20%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale:

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	<60

Only course grades of C or better will satisfy Gordon Rule, general education, and college basic distribution credit.

Assignments:

Response Papers: Each student is required to submit six response papers over the course of the semester. The purpose of these short written responses (1-2 pages) is to offer opportunities for more personal engagement with the material presented in the readings and lectures, as well as to facilitate in-class discussion during discussion periods. There are nine opportunities to submit response papers; you have the freedom to choose which six you wish to write. The due dates are: Jan. 20, Jan. 29, Feb. 12, Feb. 24, Mar. 12, Mar. 24, Apr. 7, Apr. 14, and Apr. 21.

Essays: Two essays are also required for this course. One is a shorter paper (4-6 pages), for which I will provide the prompt. The other essay is a longer research paper (10-12 pages), the topic of which will be of your choosing. This research paper will be done in stages, beginning with the submission of your research question, continuing with a bibliography and later, a rough draft. The purpose of these stages is to give you additional experience with the writing process, instead of merely churning out a paper the night before.

All response papers and essays are to be double-spaced, have one-inch margins, and written in an appropriate font. Late submissions will be penalized.

Exams: Both the midterm and the final will be in-class exams. Please bring your own “blue book.” Extras will NOT be provided. Each exam will consist of a few short-answers and a longer essay. More details will be provided at a later date.

Course Policies:

Attendance: In order to ensure success in this course, it is imperative that you attend all class meetings. Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class. More than three unexcused absences will result in a 1/3-letter-grade reduction to your final grade for each additional absence.

Participation: I consider “participation” broadly. Of course, contributing one’s own ideas and perspectives, especially during class discussions, is an essential component, but it hardly exhausts the category. Paying attention during lecture, asking questions, taking notes, showing up to class, writing response papers—all of these (and more) contribute to being an active participant in class, ensuring not only a better subjective grasp of the material in question, but also a more collaborative and fruitful intellectual atmosphere for everyone involved. All of these components together contribute 20% of your overall grade in this course.

Academic honesty: Plagiarism constitutes intellectual theft and academic dishonesty. It is the failure to properly cite and give credit when you use the ideas, words, phrases, or arguments of other people in your writing assignments. Keep in mind that material from the Internet is intellectual property and cannot be copied and pasted and presented as your own work. As you would with a source in hard copy, you must distinguish copied phrases from Internet sources with quotation marks, and you must make proper attribution to the original author. If you are at all worried that you might be in danger of plagiarism or any other honor code violation, you should ask me (not another student) in advance. The University of Florida’s honesty policies regarding cheating and plagiarism and the consequences for violating those policies may be viewed at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>. Consequences include a zero grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, and sometimes expulsion from school.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide that documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Course Evaluation: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Other Course Policies: All cell phones must be turned off at the beginning of class. Internet web-surfing, texting, checking of e-mail, or other tasks unrelated to note-taking during lecture, discussion, or other classroom activities is not permitted.

Course Schedule and Readings

January 6: Introduction

January 8: Definitions of “religion”

- *Local Religion*, ch. 1

January 13: Conquests

January 15: Conquests

- Pestana, chs. 2-3

January 20: Conquests

- *Empires of God*, ch. 1
- *Local Religion*, ch. 3

January 22: Race & Slavery

January 27: Race & Slavery

- Sensbach, chs. 1-3

January 29: Race & Slavery

February 3: Race & Slavery

- *Local Religion*, ch. 8
- Javier Villa-Flores, “‘To Lose One’s Soul’: Blasphemy and Slavery in New Spain, 1596-1669.” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 82:3 (2002): 435-468.

February 5: Evangelization – **PAPER #1 DUE**

February 10: Evangelization

- Sensbach, chs. 4-6

February 12: Evangelization

- *Empires of God*, ch. 4

February 17: Identity – **RESEARCH QUESTION DUE**

February 19: Identity

- *Empires of God*, chs. 3, 6
- Pestana, chs. 4

February 24: Identity

- Sensbach, chs. 7-8

February 26: **MIDTERM**

March 3: **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**

March 5: **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**

March 10: Saints and Sinners

- *Empires of God*, chs. 5, 10

March 12: Saints and Sinners – **BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**

- Santa Rosa and Sor Juana readings

March 17: Art and Science

March 19: **NO CLASS**

March 24: Art and Science

- *Local Religion*, ch. 2
- *Empires of God*, ch. 12

March 26: **IN-CLASS FILM: *THE MISSION***

March 31: Tolerance/Intolerance

April 2: Tolerance/Intolerance

- *Empires of God*, ch. 8
- Stuart B. Schwartz, "The Contexts of Vieira's Toleration of Jews and New Christians." *Luso-Brazilian Review* 40:1 (2003): 33-44.

April 7: Tolerance/Intolerance

- Pestana, chs. 5-6

April 9: Enlightenment – **PAPER DRAFT DUE**

April 14: Enlightenment

- *Local Religion*, ch. 7
- Pestana, ch. 7

April 16: Atlantic Revolutions

- Pestana, ch. 8

April 21: Atlantic Revolutions – **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

April 30: **FINAL EXAM (10 AM-NOON)**