This course will examine resistance to colonial expansion in the Atlantic world between the sixteenth century and the age of revolution in the late eighteenth century. As European powers occupied indigenous land in the Americas, commanded the oceans, developed slave-labor economies and exported millions overseas in chains, they encountered strong opposition from the people they dispossessed, dislocated, disaffected, disenfranchised and enslaved. Through the concept of “history from below” we will examine examples of Native American warfare against settler colonialism; slave rebellion at sea and on land; sailors, pirates and “masterlessness;” radical religious dissent against state power, with an emphasis on women’s agency; and revolutionary uprisings. These struggles by ordinary people against entrenched authority left an influential, if under-appreciated, legacy of freedom-seeking in the colonial and revolutionary Atlantic and on our own time.

Students will express their ideas through the elegance of the considered essay rather than the crabbed hastiness of the exam.

**Required texts:**


Mark M. Smith, *Stono: Documenting and Interpreting a Southern Slave Rebellion* (South Carolina, 2005).


All additional articles and primary documents are available online and will be posted in advance. Additional primary documents not listed on the syllabus may be distributed from time to time as warranted.

**Requirements**

1. Two five-page papers due **Feb. 27** and **March 26** on a pre-assigned set of questions.

2. One 2-page reading response essay due **Jan 23**.

3. Two in-class reading quizzes **Feb. 6** and **April 9** based on pre-assigned questions.
4. An essay-paper on assigned questions in lieu of a final exam, due **April 23**.

5. Class attendance and participation. Students will be expected to attend class regularly and to keep up with reading assignments, which average about 75 pages per week. Everyone is allowed two absences regardless of the reason; no excuse or physician’s note is needed (except for a missed exam). Each subsequent absence, however, will result in a drop of half a letter grade in the final average for the term (students who are forced to miss more classes because of serious or chronic medical problems or family emergencies should consult with the instructor). The course will be lecture-based approximately half to two-thirds of the time, but there will also be a number of class discussions in which students should participate based on course readings. No digital devices in class, please.

Your final grade (based on a 10-point scale) will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 5-p. papers</td>
<td>40% (20% ea.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 quizzes</td>
<td>20% (10% ea.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2-p. paper</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**Schedule**

**Week 1.** Jan. 7-9. Introduction. History from Below: In Search of the “Masterless.”

Reading:

Peter Linebaugh, “All the Atlantic Mountains Shook: Labour/Le Travailleur 10 (Autumn 1982), 87-121.


Reading:


Reading:
“The Examination of Anne Hutchinson,” 1637

2-page reaction paper on Anne Hutchinson’s trial due Thurs. 1/23


Reading:
Gerrard Winstanley, “A Declaration from the Poor Oppressed People of England” (1649).
Margaret Fell, “Women’s Speaking Justified” (1666)

Week 5. Feb. 4-6. Rebellion in Red, White and Black

Reading:
Rice, Tales from a Revolution

In-class quiz on Tales from a Revolution Feb. 6


Reading:
Rediker, Outlaws of the Atlantic, chaps. 6-7.

Week 7. Feb. 18-20. Runaways and Maroons

Reading:
   Reading:
   Smith, Stono

   5-page paper on Stono due Feb. 27

Spring Break March 2-7

Week 10. March 10-12. Maritime Rebels
   Reading:
   Rediker, Outlaws of the Atlantic, Prologue and chaps. 1-3

   Reading:
   Rediker, Outlaws of the Atlantic, chap. 4

Week 12. March 24-26. No class Tue. 3/24, work on pirate paper. Pirate paper due Thursday, 3/26

Week 13. March 31 – April 2. Rebels in the American Revolution
   Reading:
   Rediker, Outlaws, chap. 5

Week 14. April 7-9. Age of Revolution
   Reading:
   Scott, A Common Wind – in-class quiz 4/9

Week 15. April 14-16. No class – work on final essay

Week 16. April 21-23. Essays due April 23