

LAH 5934: The Iberian Atlantic World (Thursday Periods 8-10)
Dr. Max Deardorff

Prof. Max Deardorff

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Time: Thursdays, 3:00-6:00pm
Class meeting – Zoom link: TBA

Office Hours: Monday 10-11am / Tuesday 2:30-4:30pm
Make an appointment: TBA
ZOOM LINK: TBA

Outline

This seminar explores the contours of the early modern Iberian Atlantic world from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries. In the simplest sense, the “Atlantic World” refers to the lands surrounding this great ocean, and takes into account how the commingling of their heretofore separated peoples after 1415 led to social, cultural, environmental, and economic transformations in the subsequent centuries. The “Iberian Atlantic” therefore focuses upon settlements, trade relationships, and conflicts established by and/or involving inhabitants of the Spanish and Portuguese monarchies. The issue of slavery, because it involved multiple of these elements, is a quintessential Atlantic World topic. In order to emphasize the importance of cross-regional interaction, the reading list for this course will highlight historical events set alternatively on the shores of western Europe, Africa, or the Americas, but whose drama and outcomes fit into a wider trans-Atlantic frame. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to consider the contours and validity of the concept of an Atlantic World as viewed through an Iberian prism.

Readings, Weeks 1-12: A set of readings for all the students in the class is identified for every week of the semester, Weeks 1-12. These readings are trans-Atlantic in scope. One seminar participant will be assigned to introduce each week’s featured reading. In addition, a second seminar participant will be assigned to read and introduce a second book that addresses a theme relevant to the week’s main reading. These additional readings, identified by the professor, may represent other central readings in the Atlantic World historiography or may be represent a regional study aligned with the week’s thematic focus.

Readings, Weeks 13-14: Seminar organization will follow the pattern of earlier weeks, with the caveat that participants will decide, by popular vote, the thematic focus of the readings of those weeks, choosing between options provided by the professor.

Course Goals (Developing Skill Sets)

1. Students will develop familiarity with major lines of historiography and new trends within them, and (if relevant) consider how to situate their own scholarship vis-à-vis the existing literature

2. Students will – through the completion of three Book Review Essays – build foundational knowledge for completing a Qualifying Exam field in Iberian Atlantic history
3. Students will become familiar with Oxford Bibliographies Online and Oxford Research Encyclopedia in Latin American and Caribbean History – excellent sources for background knowledge in the field
4. Students will deepen their familiarity with the contours of the Iberian Atlantic in order to design syllabi appropriate for the undergraduate classroom

Assignments and Grades:

- I. Seminar leadership (5% each x2 = 10%) and Participation (10% of final grade):** Each student is responsible for leading discussions of the main text(s) in question twice over the course of the semester.

Students in charge of leading seminar discussions are expected to A) introduce the author(s) of the work(s); B) summarize the main argument, sources, and methodology of the reading(s); C) identify the historiographical traditions the author intended to contribute to and/or establish; D) provide five broad questions for discussion, to be circulated at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

For non-presenters, **ideal participation involves** having done the reading, having come prepared with discussion points, and engaging other class members in analysis of the reading during our weekly meeting.

- II. Complementary reading presentation (x2):** All students are responsible for reading the week's main reading. In addition, one student will be responsible for reading and presenting on a monograph drawn from the complementary reading list on the syllabus. The standards of presentation shall be the same as for the main reading, with the exception of discussion questions.
- III. Book Review Essays (20% each x3 = 60%):** Students will be required to write three book review essays throughout the semester. Each Book Review Essay should be roughly 2000-3500 words. The first two essays will be determined by the Complementary Readings chosen by the student and should examine together: A) the chosen Complementary Reading; B) the main reading of the same week; and C) 2-4 additional readings on the same theme, either taken from the Complementary Reading list or with approval from the professor. For the third book review essay, students may choose to focus on any one of the course's weekly themes. Book review essays should be submitted within two weeks of the in-class Complementary Reading report and (in the case of the final weeks of the semester) no later than December 16th. A successful Book Review Essay will identify common unifying themes, diverging arguments and/or focuses, and distinct methodologies.

In addition, students should be attentive to potential authorial biases and acknowledge the respective strengths and weaknesses of the works under review. For an example, students should consult José Carlos de la Puente Luna, "Painting the Canvas of the Great Andean Uprising: Recent Research on the Age of Tupac Amaru," *Latin American Research Review* 53:2 (2018): 381-387 or R. Douglas Cope, "Indigenous Agency in Colonial Spanish America," *Latin American Research Review* 45:1 (2010) or Jonathan Schorsch, "Sephardic Business: Early Modern Atlantic Style," *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 100:3 (2010): 483-503.

- IV. Syllabus assignment (20%):** Each student is required to design an undergraduate syllabus focusing on the Iberian Atlantic or the South Atlantic world. The syllabus should be designed for a semester system and should include 15 weeks, complete with readings, written assignments, and if appropriate, activities. We will devote one-hour of our Nov. 19th meeting to a syllabus exchange, and the final draft of the syllabus will be due at the final class meeting, on Dec. 10th.

Excused Absences: Traditionally, due to the limited number of class meetings in a grad course throughout the semester, attendance is absolutely crucial. Because of the extenuating circumstances of life during COVID-19, however, students will not be penalized for attendance matters. Nevertheless, students unable to attend because of personal or family medical issues should provide notification via email justifying their absence (given current circumstances, medical documentation will not be required).

Background Reading for the Course

Students desiring further background on major narratives and the deep structures of the Iberian Atlantic World should consult the works below.

- Douglas R. Egerton, Alison Games, Jane G. Landers, Kris Lane eds., *The Atlantic World: A History, 1400 – 1888* (Wiley Blackwell, 2007)
- John K. Thornton, *A Cultural History of the Atlantic World, 1250-1820* (Cambridge University Press, 2012)
- Toyin Falola and Kevin D. Roberts eds., *The Atlantic World: 1450–2000* (Indiana, 2008)
- Felipe Fernández-Armesto, *Before Columbus: Exploration and Colonization from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, 1229-1492* (Pennsylvania, 1987)
- J.H. Elliott, *Imperial Spain: 1469-1716* 2nd edition (Penguin, 2002)
- J. H. Parry, *The Spanish Seaborne Empire* (Knopf, 1966)
- MacLeod, Murdo. *Spanish Central America: A Socioeconomic History, 1520–1720* (California, 1973)
- James Casey, *Early Modern Spain: A Social History*. London: Routledge, 1999.
- Helen Nader, *Liberty in Absolutist Spain: The Habsburg Sale of Towns, 1516–1700* (Johns Hopkins, 1990).
- Tamar Herzog, *Defining Nations: Immigrants and Citizens in Early Modern Spain and Spanish America* (Yale, 2003)
- Allan J. Kuethe & Kenneth J. Andrien, *The Spanish Atlantic World in the Eighteenth Century: War and the Bourbon Reforms, 1713-1796* (Cambridge University Press, 2014)
- Nicholas Canny & Philip Morgan eds., *The Atlantic World, c. 1450-1850* (Oxford University Press, 2011)
- David Goodman, *Spanish Naval Power, 1589–1665: Reconstruction and Defeat*

- (Cambridge, 1997).
- Murdo J. MacLeod, "Spain and America: The Atlantic Trade, 1492–1720," in *The Cambridge History of Latin America*. Vol. 1. Edited by Leslie Bethell, (Cambridge, 1984), 341–388.
- Patrick O’Flanagan, *Port Cities of Atlantic Iberia, c. 1500–1900* (Ashgate, 2008)
- Erik Gilbert and Jonathan T. Reynolds, *Africa in World History: From Prehistory to the Present* 3rd ed. (Pearson Prentice Hall, 2011)
- C. R. Boxer, *The Portuguese Seaborne Empire, 1415–1825*, 2nd ed. (Carcamet, 1991)
- A. J. R. Russell-Wood, *The Portuguese Empire, 1415–1808: A World on the Move* (Johns Hopkins, 1998).
- Rui Ramos, Bernardo Vasconcelos e Sousa, and Nuno Gonçalo Monteiro. *História de Portugal* (Lisbon: A Esfera dos Livros, 2009).
- Giuseppe Marocci, *A consciência de um império: Portugal e o seu mundo, Sécs. XV–XVII* (Imprensa da Universidade de Coimbra, 2012).
- Antonio de Almeida Méndez, "Portugal, Morocco and Guinea: Reconfigurations of the North Atlantic in the Middle Ages," in *From Al-Andalus to the Americas (13th–17th Centuries): Destruction and Construction of Societies*, Thomas Glick, Antonio Malpica, Fèlix Retamero, and Josep Torró eds (Brill, 2018), 401–428.

OXFORD RESEARCH ENCYCLOPEDIAS – LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY

The Oxford Research Encyclopedias offer very good and very up-to-date essays on Latin American Topics. Consult on-campus through our library’s homepage (<http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/>) in order to get complete access. http://latinamericanhistory.oxfordre.com/browse?t0=ORE_LAH:REFLAH022

OXFORD BIBLIOGRAPHIES

The bibliographies contained on two collections on this site (“Atlantic History” and “Latin American Studies”) are especially relevant to this course. Usually compiled by top scholars in the field, these offer especially complete and up-to-date views of the historiography on a range of themes. <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/> (must be logged in on campus or with a VPN for full access)

Journals that regularly publish on Iberian Atlantic topics

Journal of Early Modern History	History Compass
Slavery and Abolition	American Historical Review
Journal of Global Slavery	e-journal of Portuguese History
William and Mary Quarterly	Journal of Modern History
Renaissance Quarterly (occasionally)	Nuevo mundo - Mundos Nuevos
Journal of Global History	Luso-Brazilian Review

Ethnohistory

Itinerario

Atlantic Studies

EUROPE / AFRICA / SPANISH INDIES / BRAZIL / CROSS-REGIONAL

Week 1 - Frameworks

Thurs 9/3

David Armitage, "Three Concepts of Atlantic History," in *The British Atlantic World, 1500-1800*, eds. David Armitage and Michael J. Braddick (New York: Palgrave, 2002), 11-27

Alison Games, "Atlantic History: Definitions, Challenges, and Opportunities," *American Historical Review* 111:3 (June 2006): 741-757

Sanjay Subrahmanyam, "Holding the World in Balance: The Connected Histories of Iberian Overseas Empires, 1500-1640," *American Historical Review* 112:5 (2007), 1359-1385

Ernesto Bassi, "Beyond Compartmentalized Atlantics: A Case for Embracing the Atlantic from Spanish American Shores," *History Compass* 12/9 (2014): 704-716

Patricia Pearson, "The World of the Atlantic before the "Atlantic World": Africa, Europe, and the Americas before 1450," in the *Atlantic World 1450-2000*, Toyin Falola and Kevin D. Roberts eds. (Indiana, 2008), 3-26

Week 2 – Iberians and the Early Overseas Slave Trade

Thurs 9/10

Toby Green, *The Rise of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in Western Africa (1300-1589)* (Cambridge, 2014) 978-1107634718

IBERIA

Week 3 – The Transatlantic Impact of the Indigenous Slave Trade

Thurs 9/17

Nancy Van Deusen, *Global Indios: The Indigenous Struggle for Justice in Sixteenth-Century Spain* (Duke, 2015) 978-0822358589

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

Scott Cave, "Madalena, The Entangled History of One Indigenous Floridian Woman in the Atlantic World," *The Americas* 74:2 (2017): 171-200

Week 4 – Empire, Families, Obligations

Thurs 9/24

Bianca Premo, "Familiares: Thinking beyond Lineage and across Race in Spanish Atlantic Family History," *William & Mary Quarterly* 70:2 (2013): 295-316

Jane Mangan, *Transatlantic Obligations: Creating the Bonds of Family in Conquest-Era Peru and Spain* (Oxford, 2015) 978-0199768578

RELIGION

Week 5 – Religious Conflict, Tolerance, and the Space in Between

Thurs 10/1

Stuart Schwartz, *All Can Be Saved: Religious Tolerance and Salvation in the Iberian Atlantic World* (Yale, 2009) 978-0300158540

Miriam Bodian, "Portuguese Jews and the Language of Liberty," *The Journal of Levantine Studies* 6 (December 2016): 313-332

Week 6 – The Sephardic Diaspora

Thurs 10/8

Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert, *A Nation upon the Ocean Sea: Portugal's Atlantic Diaspora and the Crisis of the Spanish Empire, 1492-1640* (Oxford, 2007) 978-0195175691

Jessica Roitman & Cátia Antunes, "A war of words: Sephardi merchants, (inter)national incidents, and litigation in the Dutch Republic, 1580–1640," *Jewish Culture and History* (2015): 1-21

Irene Silverblatt, "New Christians and New World Fears in Seventeenth Century Peru," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 42:3 (2000): 524-546

TRADE

Week 7 – Commodities Histories in the Trans-Atlantic Frame

Thurs 10/15

Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World* (Cornell, 2010) 978-0801476327

Week 8 – Commerce, Contraband, and Piracy

Thurs 10/22

Jesse Cromwell, *The Smugglers' World: Illicit Trade and Atlantic Communities in Eighteenth-Century Venezuela* (UNC, 2018) 978-1469636887

AND

Eberhard Crailsheim, *The Spanish Connection. French and Flemish Merchant Networks in Seville (1570 - 1650)* (Bohlau, 2016), chapter 1

The African Atlantic

Week 9 – Central Africa and Creole Identity

Thurs 10/29

Heywood & Thornton, *Central Africans, Atlantic Creoles, and the Foundation of the Americas, 1585-1660* (Cambridge, 2007) 978-0521779227

Karen Graubart, "The Creolization of the New World: Local Forms of Identity in Urban Colonial Peru, 1560-1640," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 89:3 (August 2009): 471-499

Week 10 – The South Atlantic World

Thurs 11/5

Luiz Felipe de Alencastro, *The Trade in the Living: The Formation of Brazil in the South Atlantic, Sixteenth to Seventeenth Centuries* (SUNY, 2018) 978-1438469300

Week 11 – Luso-Africans in the Atlantic World

Thurs 11/12

James Sweet, *Domingos Álvares, African Healing, and the Intellectual History of the Atlantic World* (UNC, 2013) 978-1469609751

Roquinaldo Ferreira, *Cross-Cultural Exchange in the Atlantic World* (Cambridge, 2014) 978-1107671447

Week 12 – Blackness and Catholicism in Cultural and Intellectual History

Thurs 11/19

Erin Rowe, *Black Saints in Early Modern Global Catholicism* (Cambridge, 2020) 978-1108421218

Week 13 – TBA (decided by popular vote)

Thurs 12/3

Week 14 – TBA (decided by popular vote)

Thurs 12/10

Optional thematic choices for Weeks 13 & 14

A. Imperial Competition

choose one of the following

Elena Schneider, *The Occupation of Havana: War, Trade, and Slavery in the Atlantic World* (UNC, 2018)

J.R. McNeill, *Mosquito Empires. Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1620-1914* (Cambridge, 2010)

Jane Landers, *Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions* (Harvard, 2011)

B. Early Modern Law

choose one of the following

Tamar Herzog, *Frontiers of Possession: Spain and Portugal in Europe and the Americas* (Harvard, 2015)

Lauren Benton, *Law and Colonial Cultures: Legal Regimes in World History* (Cambridge, 2001)

Hermann Bennett, *African Kings and Black Slaves: Sovereignty and Dispossession in the Early Modern Atlantic* (Pennsylvania, 2018) 978-0812224627

C. Labor

choose one of the following

Lyman Johnson, *Workshop of Revolution: Plebeian Buenos Aires and the Atlantic World, 1776–1810* (Duke, 2011)

Ruth Mackay, *"Lazy, Improvident People": Myth and Reality in the Writing of Spanish History* (Cornell, 2006) 978-0801473142