

WOH 3931: Radical Religions in the Atlantic World

Spring 2019

Tue, Per. 4 (10:40 – 11:30), Thur, Per. 4-5 (10:40 – 12:35)

Keene-Flint 119

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The meeting of Native American, European, and African peoples in the early Americas was, among other things, a collision of religious worldviews. From this new “religious frontier” arose a host of radical faiths in the Atlantic world between the sixteenth century and the age of revolution in the late eighteenth century. Through a combination of secondary and primary readings we will examine religious groups in Europe and North America that challenged and sometimes destabilized orthodox spiritual and social practices, including Puritans, Quakers, Muslims, and others. The course will pay particular attention to the role of nonconformist religions in shaping attitudes toward gender, race, the self, and religious freedom. And we will focus on the ways Native Americans and Africans used religion in new ways to respond to the pressures of European colonization in America.

These required books are available at the campus bookstore and online:

Allan Greer, *Mohawk Saint: Catherine Tekakwitha and the Jesuits* (Oxford, 2006).

Marcus Rediker, *The Fearless Benjamin Lay: The Quakere Dwarf Whom Became the First Revolutionary Abolitionist* (Beacon, 2017).

Week 1. Jan. 8-10

Week 2. Jan. 15-17

Week 3. Jan. 22-24

Week 4. Jan. 29-31

Week 5. Feb. 5-7

Week 6. Feb. 12-14

Week 7. Feb. 19-21

Week 8. Feb. 26-28

Week 9. March 4-9 Spring Break

Week 10. March 12-14

Week 11. March 19-21

Week 12. March 26-28

Week 13. April 2-4

Week 14. April 9-11

Week 15. April 16-18

Week 16. April 23.