

American Origins, ca. 1619 -ca. 1776

Instructor: Sarah Pearsall (spearsa1@jh.edu)

Course number: AS.100.324

Semester 1, 2021-2022

Meets Tues/Thurs 1:30-2:45, Gilman 381

Email: (spearsa1@jh.edu)

Office hours: Thursday 12-1:30pm and by appointment



Statue of George Washington toppled in Portland, Oregon, 2020
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_fgK3a2JDNO

Two years, 1619 and 1776, have been in the news a lot in the last few years; both are the focus on notable reports on America and its past. One marks the arrival of enslaved Africans to the British North American mainland colonies, the other the date of independence of thirteen British colonies. Both tell vital stories about American origins and how Americans could and should understand their past. Both also occurred in Colonial America. But what, where, and when is Colonial America, exactly? And how and why does it matter? As recently as thirty years ago, “Colonial America” meant the thirteen British colonies in the years from 1607-1776; it also generally meant white settlers. Much has changed in the last few decades. This class considers issues of origins and pasts, as well the reconfigurations put in motion by contact, trade, and settlement in early modern America.

In keeping with a focus on the what, where, and when, this course centers each week on a historic map or object from the era. Early American maps are hardly straight-forward sources.

They are populated by diverse landscapes and peoples; freighted with names, claims, and ambitions; and saturated with the dynamics of power and exploitation. They are rich and disorienting. They provide us with a way to see this world as at least some people wanted us to do so: a beguiling if sometimes misleading way into dynamic, disturbing, and distant worlds. What can we see when we look at early America as represented by people of the period?

Students are expected to attend all the classes, to do the readings, and to participate in discussion.

Assignments and Grading:

35%: participation in class discussions

20%: short paper (cc. 4-6pp). Due October 8 by noon.

10%: Preliminary final paper proposal and bibliography. Due Nov 17 by noon for discussion on Nov 18.

35%: final paper (c. 12pp). Due Dec 17 by noon.

Academic Integrity

In this course, you are expected to be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. See Ethics Board Web Site (<http://ethics.jhu.edu>) for more information.

Accommodations

Accommodations will be made for all who need them. Please be in touch with the teacher as soon as possible regarding any issues. Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in this class should obtain an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu.

Required Book: Alan Taylor, *American Colonies: The Settling of North America* (New York: Penguin, 2001)

Week 1 Orientations

Aug 31 When did America begin, and why does it matter?

1619 Project film

<https://pulitzercenter.org/blog/1619-project-wins-icp-infinity-award-featured-interactive-presentation>

Blackhaven (game): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHSvPXx6eho>

Sept 2

Map: John Smith, "New England: the most remarqueable parts thus named by the high and mighty Prince Charles, prince of great Britaine," (London, 1616, at Boston Public Library)

<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:3f462s64w>

Reading:

-1619 Project: read the essays by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Tiya Miles

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>

- Adam Serwer, "The Fight Over the 1619 Project Is Not About the Facts," *The Atlantic*

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/12/historians-clash-1619-project/604093/>

Week 2 Empires

Sept 7:

Object: Mississippian gorget, AD 1250–1350 (Castalian Springs, Sumner County, Tennessee, William E. Myer Collection 15/853, National Museum of the American Indian):

<https://americanindian.si.edu/static/exhibitions/infinityofnations/woodlands/150853.html>



Mississippian Gorget (as above)

Reading:

-Taylor. Ch 1, Natives 13,000 BCE-CE 1492

-Dean R. Snow, Nancy Gonlin, and Peter E. Siegel, eds. *The Archaeology of Native North America* (Routledge. 2019), Ch 7.

Sept 9

Map of Tenochtitlán and the Gulf of Mexico (Nuremberg, Friedrich Peypus, 1524), John Carter Brown Map Collection,

<https://jcb.lunaimaging.com/luna/servlet/detail/JCBMAPS~1~1~1041~106880006:-Map-of-Tenochtitl%C3%A1n-and-the-Gulf>

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch 2, Colonizers, 1400-1800

-“The Encounter of Vikings and Skraelingar in Vinland,” National Humanities Center toolbox at <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/contact/text4/norse.pdf>

-“Letter of Christopher Columbus on his First Voyage to America, 1492,” National Humanities Center toolbox at

<https://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/contact/text1/columbusletter.pdf>

-“Mexico and Tlaxcala Accounts of the Spanish Conquest, 1500s,” National Humanities Center toolbox at

http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/contact/text6/mexica_tlaxcala.pdf

Week 3 Reconfigurations

Sept 14

Map: Peter Apianus, “Charta Cosmographica...” 1553 at

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1553_world_map -](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1553_world_map_-_Charta_Cosmographica_Cum_Ventorum_Propria_Natura_et_Operatione.jpg)

[_Charta_Cosmographica_Cum_Ventorum_Propria_Natura_et_Operatione.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1553_world_map_-_Charta_Cosmographica_Cum_Ventorum_Propria_Natura_et_Operatione.jpg)

(black and white version at <https://exhibits.stanford.edu/ruderman/catalog/gn154mv7338>)

Reading:

-Taylor Ch 3 New Spain, 1500-1600

-J. Michael Francis and Kathleen M Kole. "Murder and Martyrdom in Spanish Florida: Don Juan and the Guale Uprising of 1597." *American Museum of Natural History Anthropological Papers* 95 (2011): 1-156.

<https://digitallibrary.amnh.org/bitstream/handle/2246/6123/AP95.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp 17-48)

Sept 16

Reading:

-Taylor Ch 4, The Spanish Frontier, 1530-1700

-Francis and Kole, "Murder and Martyrdom in Spanish Florida," Chs. 2-3 (pp 49-62)

Week 4 Nations

Sept 21

Map: Louis Joliet, “Nouvelle decouverte de plusieurs nations dans la Nouvelle France en l'année 1673 et 1674.” Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3300.ct000655/>

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch 5, Canada and Iroquoia, 1500-1660

-“First Encounters of the Ho-Chunk Nation and the French,” National Humanities Center,

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/contact/text6/hochunk.pdf>

Sept 23

Reading:

-Allan Greer, ed. *The Jesuit Relations: Natives and Missionaries in Seventeenth-Century North America* (Bedford, St. Martin's, 2000), pp. 20-36, 78-93
-Brett Rushforth, "'A Little Flesh We Offer You': The Origins of Indian Slavery in New France," *William and Mary Quarterly* 60:4 (Oct. 2003): 777-808.

Week 5 Islands

Sept 28

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch. 10, *The West Indies, 1600-1700*

-Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross eds. *A Black Women's History of the United States* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2020), Ch 1 ("Isabel's Expedition and Freedom Before 1619")

-Ebony Jones and Jennifer I. Morgan, "Slavery and the Slave Trade," in Nancy Hewitt and Anne M. Valk, eds. *Blackwell Companion to American Women's History*, second edition (Wiley, 2020), pp. 23-38.

Sept 30

Map: Richard Ligon, "A Topographical Description and Admeasurement of the Yland of Barbados in the West Idyaes," (London, 1657)

<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/carviewsvirtex/aftrade/ylandbarb/012ktop00000123u11400000.html>



Detail, Ligon (as above)

Reading:

-Richard Ligon, *A True and Exact History of the Island of Barbadoes* (London, 1657), excerpts (slavery and sugar production):

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/power/text8/LigonBarbadosSlavery.pdf>

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/permanence/text1/LigonBarbados.pdf>

-Broadside, "A Brief, but most True, Relation of the late Barbarous and Bloody Plot..." (London: George Croom, 1693),

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/power/text8/BarbadosSlaveConsp.pdf>

Week 6 Plantings

Oct 5 Drawings by John White/engravings by Theodore de Bry at http://www.virtualjamestown.org/images/white_debry_html/introduction.html



John White, Watercolor “Their sitting at meate”

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch. 6, Virginia, 1570-1650

-Richard Frethorne’s letter to his parents, 1623 at

<http://www.virtualjamestown.org/exist/cocoon/jamestown/fha/J1012>

- Taunya Lovell Banks, “Elizabeth Key, Seventeenth-Century Virginia,” in Erica L. Ball, Tatiana Seijas and Terri L. Snyder, eds. *As If She Were Free: A Collective Biography of Women and Emancipation in the Americas* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), pp 79-95

Oct 7

Map: Augustine Herrman. “Virginia and Maryland as it is planted and inhabited this present year 1670,” London: John Seller, hydrographer to the King, 1673. Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3880.ct000766/?r=-0.408,-0.016,1.859,0.885,0>

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch. 7, Chesapeake Colonies, 1650-1750

-Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross eds. *A Black Women's History of the United States* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2020), Ch 2 (“Angela’s Exodus Out of Africa, 1619-1760”)

Short paper (cc. 4-6pp) due October 8 by noon. Choose and curate a historical map or object from Colonial America, and make a case for its importance in representing this era.

Week 7 Displacements

Oct 12

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch 8. New England, 1600-1700

David D. Hall, ed. *Witch-Hunting in Seventeenth-Century New England*, second ed, (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 199), Ch 7 “One Man’s Many Accusers (1658-1669)” and Ch 8 (“Mother and Daughter: The Holmans of Cambridge (1659-1660), pp. 115-146 (available online through Hathitrust)

Oct 14

Map: John Sellers, Hydrographer to the King, "A Mapp of New England," 1675, Beinecke, Yale
<https://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/4200472>

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch 9, Puritans and Indians, 1600-1700 (KPWar)

-Lisa Brooks, *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip's War* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2018), Ch. 7

-Mary Rowlandson, "Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson," 1682, online at Project Gutenberg at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/851/851-h/851-h.htm>,
Sixteenth Remove-Nineteenth Remove (no page numbers)

Week 8 Transformations

Oct 19

Map: "Catawba deerskin map," [Map of the several nations of Indians to the Northwest of South Carolina], 1721

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2005625337/>

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch 11, Carolina, 1670-1740

-Alan Taylor, *Colonial America: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press 2012), Introduction (pp. 1-8)

- John K. Thornton, "African Dimensions of the Stono Rebellion," *American Historical Review* 96:4 (Oct., 1991), pp. 1101-1113.

Oct 21

Map: Philip Lea, "North America divided into its III principall [sic] parts," (1685)

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3300.mf000041/?r=0.284,-0.209,1.301,0.62,0>

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch 13, Revolutions, 1685-1730

- Charles Johnson, *A General History of the Pyrates*, second ed., (London: T. Warner, 1724), online at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/40580/40580-h/40580-h.htm>

-Chapter 3 ("Of Captain Teach, alias Black-Beard)

-Life of Mary Read

-Life of Anne Bonney

Week 9 Movements

Oct 26

Map: Lewis Evans, 'A map of Pensilvania, New-Jersey, New-York, and the three Delaware counties,' (Philadelphia, 1749),

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3790.ct000062/?r=0.017,0.216,1.534,0.727,0>

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch. 12, Middle Colonies, 1600-1700

-Susanah Shaw Romney, "Reytory Angola, Seventeenth-Century Manhattan (US)," in Erica L. Ball, Tatiana Seijas and Terri L. Snyder, eds. *As If She Were Free: A Collective Biography of Women and Emancipation in the Americas* (Cambridge UP, 2020), 58-78

Oct 28

Map: John Mitchell, "Map of the British and French Dominions..." 1755, John Carter Brown Library

<https://jcblibrary.org/collection/map-british-and-french-dominions>

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch. 14, The Atlantic, 1700-1780

-Excerpts, John Newton, "Journal of a Slaver," at <https://www.learningforjustice.org/classroom-resources/texts/hard-history/the-journal-of-a-slave-trader>

-Investigate resources at Slave Voyages database at <https://www.slavevoyages.org/>

Week 10 Orderings

Nov 2

Reading:

-Gloria Whiting, "Power, Patriarchy, and Provision: African Families Negotiate Gender and Slavery in New England," *Journal of American History* 103:3 (December 2016) 583–605,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jahist/jaw325>

-Virginia Runaways Database: <http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/>
Search/Browse a selection of ads, 1730s-1770s

Nov 4

Map: Jacques Nicolas Bellin, "Plan de la Nouvelle Orleans," 1764. Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/item/2003627002>

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch. 16, French America, 1650-1750

-Sophie White, *Voices of the Enslaved: Love, Labor, and Longing in French Louisiana* (Chapel Hill: Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture for University of North Carolina Press, 2019) (online), Ch. 3 ('Not so Denatured as to Kill Her Child': Marie-Jeanne and Lisette). Please pay particular attention to the primary source passages.



Anon, "Deux Antillaises," Musée d'Aquitaine, Bordeaux

Week 11 Borders

Nov 9

Map: Miguel Custodio Durán, *Descripción y mapa de la nueva provincia poblada de bárbaros . . . situada en la costa del Seno Mexicano, desde el puerto de Tampico . . . hasta la provincia de Texas*, 1744 <https://oieahc-cf.wm.edu/wmq/Jan11/Barr/figure1/index.html>
also at <http://bdmx.mx/documento/mapa-provincia-poblada-barbaros>

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch 17, *The Great Plains, 1680-1800*

-Ned Blackhawk, *Violence over the Land: Indians and Empire in the Early American West* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2006), Ch. 2 "The Making of the New Mexican-Ute Borderlands," pp. 55-87

-Juliana Barr, "Geographies of Power: Mapping Indian Borders in the 'Borderlands' of the Early Southwest," *William and Mary Quarterly* 68:1 (2011): 5-46

Nov 11

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch 19, *The Pacific, 1760-1820*

-excerpts Junípero Serra letters about San Diego rebellion:

https://olangels.tripod.com/Serra_Excerpts.pdf

-Claudio Saunt, *West of Revolution: An Uncommon History of 1776*, (New York: Norton 2014), Ch. 2 ("A War for Independence: The San Diego Uprising,") pp 54-71.

-Erika Pérez, "Family, Spiritual Kinship, and Social Hierarchy in Early California," *Early American Studies* 14:4 (2016): 661-687

Week 12 War

Nov 16

Map: Fort Duquesne, 1754, West Virginia State Archives

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/frenchandindian/fortduquesnemap.html>

Reading:

-Taylor, Ch 18, Imperial Wars and Crisis, 1739-1775

- James Henderson, "A Letter describing the Death of General Wolfe," ed. W. A. J. Archbold, *English Historical Review* 12:48 (Oct., 1897), pp. 762-763.



Benjamin West, "The Death of General Wolfe," 1770

Nov 17 Final paper proposal and bibliography due at noon

Nov 18

Individual meetings to discuss final paper

Thanksgiving holiday week

Week 13

Nov 30

Reading:

-The President's Advisory 1776 Commission, "The 1776 Report," (Jan. 2021), at

<https://f.hubspotusercontent10.net/hubfs/397762/The%20President%E2%80%99s%20Advisory%201776%20Commission%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf>

Dec 2 Wrap Up

Map:

Emanuel Bowen, et al. "An accurate map of North America," (London: Robert Sayer, 1775):

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3300.ar002300/?r=0.19,0.228,0.92,0.438,0> 1775

Final paper due Dec 17 at noon.