

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CANTON, NEW YORK**



**MASTER SYLLABUS**

**HISTORY 303 - COLONIAL AMERICAN SOCIETY**

**Created by:** Dr. Carli Schiffner  
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**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & LIBERAL ARTS  
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT - HISTORY  
Fall 202**

- A. **TITLE:** Colonial American Society
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** HIST 303
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 lecture hours per week for 15 weeks
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** NO
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** GER 4
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Spring
- G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course students will explore the important themes in the history of the British American colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Particular attention is devoted to social and cultural developments, and to the bringing together of peoples from three different continents in the colonies. Other avenues of inquiry relating to such matters as imperial politics and economic growth will also be pursued.
- H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:** US History to 1865 (HIST 103) and Composition & The Spoken Word (ENGL 101), or permission of instructor.
- I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

SLO	GER	ISLO
Describe the important themes of colonial American history.	Knowledge of a basic narrative of American history: political, economic, social, and cultural, including knowledge of unity and diversity in American society	2 – Communication [IA]
Explain and assess the process of colonization in the context of European expansion.	Understanding of America’s evolving relationship with the rest of world	2 – Critical Thinking [CA]
Examine the interaction of peoples from three different continents in the British American colonies and assess the role of diversity in the development of colonial places.	Knowledge of a basic narrative of American history: political, economic, social, and cultural, including knowledge of unity and diversity in American society	4 – Social Responsibility [GL]
Identify the major trends in local and imperial governance of the colonies.	Knowledge of common institutions in American society and how they have affected different groups	2 – Critical Thinking [IA]

Clearly outline the social and economic development of the colonies from settler outposts to revolutionary provinces.	Knowledge of a basic narrative of American history: political, economic, social, and cultural, including knowledge of unity and diversity in American society	5. Industry, Professional, Discipline-Specific Knowledge and Skills
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**J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** Yes. Research.

**K. TEXTS:** To be determined by the instructor.

John M. Murrin, *Rethinking America*, (Oxford 2018).

Bailyn, Bernard, *The Peopling of British North America: An Introduction*, (Vintage, 1988).

Cronon, William, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*, (Hill and Wang, 1983).

Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher, *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of the Women of Northern Country, 1740-1790*, (Vintage, 1991)

Wood, Peter, *Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 through the Stono Rebellion*, (Norton, 1996).

**L. REFERENCES:** REFERENCES: Other appropriate texts might include:

Anderson, Fred. *A People's Army: Massachusetts Soldiers and Society in the Seven Years' War*, (Chapel Hill, 1984).

Axtell, James. *The European and the Indian: Essays in the Ethnohistory of Colonial North America*, (Oxford, 1981).

Boyer, Paul, and Stephen Nissenbaum. *Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft*, (Cambridge, Mass, 1974).

Breen, T.H., and Stephen Innes. "Myne Owne Ground": *Race and Freedom on Virginia's Eastern Shore, 1640-1676*, (NY, 1980).

Breen, T.H. *Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of the Revolution*, (Princeton, 1985).

Carr, Lois Green, Russell Menard, and Lorena Walsh. *Robert Cole's World: Agriculture and Society in Early Maryland*, (Chapel Hill, 1991).

Frey, Sylvia R. *Water From the Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age*, (Princeton, 1991).

Goodfriend, Joyce. *Before the Melting Pot: Society and Culture in Colonial New York City, 1664-1730* (NY, 1994)

Greer, Allan. *The Jesuit Relations: Natives and Missionaries in Seventeenth Century North America* (NY, 2009).

Greven, Philip. *Four Generations: Population, Land, and Family in Colonial Andover, Massachusetts* (NY 1972)

Hawke, David Freeman. *Everyday Life in Early America*, (NY, 1988).

Jennings, Francis. *The Invasion of America: Indians, Colonialism, and the Cant of Conquest*, (Chapel Hill, 1975).

Jordan, Winthrop D. *White over Black: American Attitudes toward the Negro, 1550-1812*, (Chapel Hill, 1968).

Kupperman, Karen, ed. *Major Problems in American Colonial History*, (Boston, 2000).

Lockridge, Kenneth. *A New England Town: The First Hundred Years*. (NY 1985)  
Merrell, James. *Into the American Woods: Negotiators on the Pennsylvania Frontier*, (NY, 1999).  
Morgan, Edmund S. *American Slavery, American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia*, (NY, 1975).

Sobel, Mechal. *The World They Made Together: Black and White Values in Eighteenth-Century Virginia*, (Princeton, 1987).  
Tolles, Frederick. *Meeting House and Counting House. Wallace, Anthony F.C., The Death and Rebirth of the Seneca*, (NY, 1969).

Videos: The American Experience:

A Midwife's Tale  
The Black Robe  
1776  
The New World

The New World Websites:

Virtual Jamestown

**M. EQUIPMENT:** Technology Enhanced Classroom

**N. GRADING METHOD:** A-F

**O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**  
essay examinations, quizzes, group research projects, oral presentations, class discussion, debates

**P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I - England, Africa, and America before 1600

- A. America before colonization, diversity and development
- B Africa before colonization
- C. The expansion of Europe and England
- D. Colonization in the perspective of existing English trends
- E. Theories of colonization

II - The creation of the first colonies: intercultural contact and the process of planting a settlement

- A. Early European explorations
- B. Jamestown and the founding of Virginia
- C. The development of Virginia and the tobacco economy
- D. New England and the Great Migration
- E. Religion and trade in New England
- F. Those other colonies the Middle Colonies and the South

III - The uneasy 17th century

- A. Virginia and the Problem of Labor
- B. New England's Indian problems
- C. The development of slavery
- D. Imperial policy and mercantilism

IV - Eighteenth century growth and development

- A. The growth of British provincial culture
- B. Women and the family
- C. The growth of the economy and the transatlantic trade
- D. Life on the frontiers

V – War and Empire

- A. America and European conflicts
- B. Changing British Policy
- C. The French and Indian War and the High Point of the First British Empire.

VI – The Road to Revolution

- A. Setting the Empire Right – Taxes and Royal authority
- B. A Shifting Consciousness – from Resistance to Revolution
- C. The Quest for Independence

**Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: n/a**