History 504 offers an extensive and advanced introduction to the literature of the English and British imperial and colonial world to 1763. It is intended to prepare graduate students for examinations in the field and to serve as a foundation of knowledge for those who will teach and research in the period. Principal themes addressed are: the implications of interaction and continued contact and coexistence of Europeans, Indians, and Africans; the impact of the growth of permanent English settler societies in North America; the formation and development of an English/British Empire; and the changes in political and intellectual thought over the course of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

There will be three writing assignments: each will be an evaluation and reaction paper that treats a week of assigned readings, excluding the first and last weeks of the course. These papers must thoroughly discuss the issues at stake in the readings chosen, assess disagreements among the readings should there be any, and provide analysis and assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the readings being treated. Paper one must treat a week through February 11th and is due February 18th. Paper two must treat a subject from February 18th through March 11th and is due March 25th. Paper three must treat a subject from March 25th through April 22nd and is due April 29th. While the body of each paper will discuss the readings from the week you have chosen, complex historical topics cannot be demarcated so neatly. When other assigned reading is relevant for comparative purposes or to add context or insight, it is your responsibility to consider it. Each paper is worth 25% of the final grade. The remaining 25% will come from class participation. Here you must show familiarity with all of the assigned reading and be prepared to discuss it each week. The seminar is a venerable tradition in graduate study and allowing others to shoulder the work of discussion for you is simply not an option.

Note on Attendance: We are all well passed the taking of attendance. You are expected to attend each class prepared to participate and to demonstrate that you have earned a high mark for what is a substantial portion of the overall grade. Though it is not desirable, at times absence may be unavoidable. There is no need to tell me about or explain an absence but you are required to write a 5-7 page summary of the readings for the class you missed. That summary will be due at the next class meeting. Too many absences will result in a lowered grade at the discretion of the professor.

Course Syllabus

Books to Purchase
2. Edmund S. Morgan, *Visible Saints: The History of A Puritan Idea*
8. John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*

**Note Well:** The **majority** of course readings are available at library online course reserve

**Week I: January 21: Introduction and Overview**
Reading:

**Week II: January 28: Early Modern Assumptions**
Reading:
1. *Oxford History of the British Empire: The Origins of Empire* chapters 2, 5, 6, 7
2. On Reserve: William McKee Evans, “From the Land of Canaan to the Land of Guinea: The Strange Odyssey of the ‘Sons of Ham’”
3. On Reserve: J.P. Sommerville, *Royalists and Patriots*, chapter 1
6. On Reserve: Patrick Collinson “Puritans, Men of Business, and Elizabethan Parliaments”
7. On Reserve: David Armitage “The Elizabethan Idea of Empire”

**Week III: February 4: The Chesapeake in the 17th Century**
Reading:
2. *Oxford History of the British Empire: The Origins of Empire* chapter 8
4. On Reserve: James Axtell, “The Rise and Fall of the Powhatan Empire”
5. On Reserve: Carville Earle, “Environment, Disease, and Mortality in Early Virginia”
10. On Reserve: Mary Beth Norton, “Gender and Defamation in Seventeenth-Century Maryland”

**Week IV: February 11: New England in the 17th Century**
Reading:
1. Oxford History of the British Empire: The Origins of Empire chapter 9
6. On Reserve: Jill Lepore, “Dead Men Tell No Tales: John Sassamon and the Fatal Consequences of Literacy”
7. On Reserve: Carol Karlsen, The Devil in the Shape of a Woman chp. 1

**Week V: February 18: Native Responses**

Reading:
1. Oxford History of the British Empire: The Origins of Empire chapter 15
2. On Reserve, Richard White, The Middle Ground introduction and pp. 1-93
3. On Reserve: James Axtell, “Colonial America without the Indians”
4. On Reserve: James Axtell, “Through Another Glass Darkly”
5. On Reserve: James Axtell, “The Invasion Within”

**Week VI: February 25: England’s 17th Century**

Reading:
1. On Reserve: J.P. Sommerville, Royalists and Patriots pp. 55-104
3. On Reserve: Robert Ashton, “Revenue Farming under the Early Stuarts”
5. On Reserve: Peter Lake, “Calvinism and the English Church”
7. On Reserve: Mark Goldie, “Restoration Political Thought”
8. On Reserve: Tim Harris, “The Parties and the People”
11. On Reserve: W.A. Speck, Reluctant Revolutionaries pp. 139-165

**Week VII: March 4: Changing Political Thought in the Seventeenth Centuries: Documents**

Reading:
2. On Reserve: “The Putney Debates”

**Week VIII March 11: The Restoration Colonies in the 17th Century**

Reading:
1. *Oxford History of the British Empire: The Origins of Empire* chapter 16
2. On Reserve: Gary B. Nash, *Quakers and Politics* pp. 56-88 and 127-180
4. On Reserve: Jean Soderlund, “Women’s Authority in Pennsylvania and New Jersey Quaker Meetings”
7. *Oxford History of the British Empire: The Origins of Empire* chapter 17
8. On Reserve: Jack Greene, “Colonial South Carolina and the Caribbean Connection”
12. On Reserve: Peter Coclanis, “Rice Prices in the 1720s and the Evolution of the South Carolina Economy”

**Week IX Spring Break No Class Meeting**

**Week X: March 25: Britain’s 18th Century**

Reading:
1. *Oxford History of the British Empire: The Eighteenth Century* chapter 3
4. On Reserve: Linda Colley, *Britons* pp. 11-54

**Week XI: April 1: Northern Colonies in the 18th Century**

Reading:
9. On Reserve: John Murrin, “Political Development” (Emphasis on material treating the northern colonies)
10. On Reserve: Richard Bushman, “American High-Style and Vernacular Cultures”
12. On Reserve: John Fea, “In Search of Unity: Presbyterians in the Wake of the First Great Awakening”

**Week XII: April 8: Southern Colonies in the 18th Century**

Reading:
1. T.H. Breen, *Tobacco Culture* pp. 1-123
9. On Reserve: John Murrin, “Political Development” (Emphasis on material treating the southern colonies)

**Week XIII: April 15: The British Empire in the 18th Century**

Reading:
1. *The Oxford History of the British Empire: The Eighteenth Century* chapters 4,5,8,10,13,16, 20, and 21
3. On Reserve: Kathleen Wilson, “Empire of Virtue”
5. On Reserve, W.A. Speck, “The International and Imperial Context”
7. On Reserve: Christina Snyder, “Native Nations in the Age of Revolution”

**Week XIV April 22: The French and Indian War**

1. *The Oxford History of the British Empire* chapter 14 pp. 300-308 (stop at the end of the first full paragraph)

Week XV April 29: Prognosis