

HIST: 302

American Colonies: Contact, Conflict, and Commerce in Early America



MWF 12:30 – 1:20 in UNIV 301
Dr. T. Cole Jones

Christopher Columbus did not discover a “New World” in 1492, he invaded an old one. Little did he know this first trans-Atlantic voyage would launch one of the largest migrations in history. For the next three centuries Europeans vied with indigenous peoples, and with each other, for control of a continent they called “America.” Contact between natives, forced immigrants from Africa, and colonizers from Spain, France, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the British Isles, led to brutally violent conflict but also to productive exchange, creating the first global economy in the process.

This course will examine the dynamic world born of that contact, conflict, and commerce. The confluence of diverse peoples, animals, crops, goods, ideas, and even microbes shaped the development of North America and by extension the nation we live in today. Throughout the course, we will ask, “what was colonial about Colonial America?” and we will wrestle with the legacies of colonialism all around us.