**History 395 Junior Seminar**

**Witches, Wenches, Pirates, and Heretics: Misfits & Castoffs in Colonial America**

**Professor Lambert**

**Spring 2017**

**TTH 12-1:15**

**University 001**

**Course Description**

This Junior research seminar is designed to introduce history majors to the craft of historical research by allowing students to explore a common topic and, in doing so, experience the excitement and challenges of historical discovery. The topic for the seminar offers a wide range of opportunities for exploration.

Every society organizes itself around a common culture—the ideas, beliefs, aspirations, and fears that define who the people are and what they hope to become. To give full expression to that culture, societies enact laws that define who fits in and who should be cast off, and they establish institutional watchdogs to police the boundary between the “ins” and “outs.”

This seminar investigates that culture-making and culture-maintaining process in colonial America (mainland British North America) by examining those individuals and groups deemed to be a threat to society. Witches, wenches, pirates, and heretics were but a few of those marginalized and often punished. Yet these outsiders, often colorful characters, played an important role in shaping what America was becoming.

**Required Reading**

William K. Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students*

Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, *Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft*

Kathleen Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race, and Power in Colonial Virginia*

Marcus Rediker, “Under the Banner of King Death”: The Social World of Anglo-American Pirates, 1716-1726,” *William & Mary Quarterly* 38(January 1981), 203-227.

**Written Assignments**

Students will write two 500-600 word essays on questions inspired by the books we read together.

Each student will write a 20-25 page research paper on a topic agreed upon by the student in consultation with the instructor. The paper will examine the life of a marginalized individual or castoff group in colonial America. The paper will explore the circumstances of the subject’s life and experiences in enduing and resisting marginalization. Throughout the semester the student will submit the following: a paper proposal, an annotated bibliography, a topic-sentence outline, and a final draft. Directions for these submissions will be discussed in class. All assignments will be submitted on Blackboard.

NB Late submissions of assignments may result in a grade reduction.

**Class Attendance**

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class. Every student is responsible for announcements and assignments made in class, whether or not the student is present.

**Office Hours**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 to 11:30, or by appointment

UNIV 313

**CLASS SHEDULE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **TOPIC** | **ASSIGNMENT** |
| **T 1-10** | **Introduction** | ***Salem Possessed*** |
| **Th 1-12** | **Witches as “outsiders”** |  |
| **T 1-17** | **Witches: continued** |  |
| **Th 1-19** | **Gender, Race, and Authority** | ***Good Wives, Nasty Wenches*** |
| **T 1-24** | **Gender, Race, continued** |  |
| **Th 1-26** | **What about class?** | **Due: Research Paper Proposal** |
| **T 1-31** | **Robbers of the Sea** | **“Under the Banner of King Death”** |
| **Th 2-2** | **Pirates as privateers** |  |
| **T 1-7** | **Asking Questions & Gathering Evidence** | ***Writing History*** |
| **TH 2-9** | **Organization & Writing** |  |
| **T 2-14** | **No Class--Research** |  |
| **TH 2-16** | **No Class--Research** |  |
| **T 2-21** | **Student Research** | **due: annotated bibliography** |
| **TH 2-23** | **Student Research** |  |
| **T 2-28** | **Student Research** |  |
| **TH 3-2** | **Student Research** |  |
| **T 3-7** | **Class: Student Progress Reports** |  |
| **TH 3-9** | **Individual Meetings with Students** |  |
| **T 3-14** | **NO CLASS SPRING BREAK** |  |
| **TH 3-16** | **NO CLASS SPRING BREAK** |  |
| **T 3-21** | **Student Research** |  |
| **TH 3-23** | **Student Research** |  |
| **T 3-28** | **Student Research** |  |
| **TH 3-30** | **Student Research** | **Due: Topic Sentence Outline** |
| **T 4-4** | **Student Research** |  |
| **TH 4-6** | **Student Research** |  |
| **T 4-11** | **Class: Presentations of Papers-in-Process** |  |
| **TH 4-13** | **Individual Meetings** |  |
| **T 4-18** | **Student Research** |  |
| **TH 4-20** | **Student Research** |  |
| **T 4-25** | **Student Research** |  |
| **TH 4-27** | **Submission of paper** | **Due: Final Paper** |

**University Disclaimers**

**Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend and be prepared for every class. In case of unavoidable absences, students are responsible for all work, assignments, and announcements pertaining to the days absent.

The instructor and students are expected to comply with provisions set forth in the university’s regulations governing attendance and absences, as follows:

It is recognized that occasionally it may be necessary for a student to be absent from a scheduled course activity for personal reasons beyond his/her control (e.g., illness, family emergency, bereavement, etc.). The University expects each student to be responsible for class-related work missed as a result of an unavoidable absence; this work may be made up at the discretion of the instructor.

Only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility. When conflicts or absences can be anticipated, such as for many University sponsored activities and religious observances, the student should inform the instructor of the situation as far in advance as possible and the instructor should strive to accommodate the student. Individual course policies may state expected notification periods. For unanticipated or emergency absences where advance notification to an instructor is not possible, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible by e-mail, phone, or by contacting the main office of the department that offers the course. When the student is unable to make direct contact with the instructor and is unable to leave word with the instructor’s department because of circumstances beyond the student’s control, and in cases of bereavement, the student or the student’s representative should contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 765-494-1747 if the reported absence is expected to be for an extended period of time (normally a week or more). A member of the Dean of Students staff will notify the student’s instructor(s) of the circumstances. The student should be aware that this intervention does not change in any way the outcome of the instructor’s decision regarding the students’ academic work and performance in any given course.

Regardless of whether these absences are anticipated or unanticipated, instructors are to allow for absences in accordance with the Student Bereavement Policy and in all other cases, are encouraged to accommodate the student. In certain laboratory-based or intensive short-term courses, a student can jeopardize his/her academic status with an unreasonable number of absences, particularly in lab courses that cannot be made up later. The student should always consult with the instructor to determine the potential impact of any absence.

**Cheating / Plagiarism**

Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. University Regulations contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in this class. You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will likely result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students Office.

**Campus Emergency**

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email or phone.