History 253A: Colonial British America
MW 12:50-2:20; Johnson Hall 1
Dr. Melissane Parm Schrems
Fall 2015

Office: Piskor Hall, Room 112
Office Hours: M 3:00-5:00, W 3:00-4:00 & by appointment
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Objectives
- To become familiar with the stories of the British North American colonies
- To learn how to analyze primary and secondary sources
- To master dates as useful tools of organization an historical understanding
- To compare, contrast, and value the experiences of diverse peoples, respecting the various perspectives formed by their ethnic, gendered, religious and national identities
- To use this narrative as a tool to develop an analytical skill set addressing both sources and how sources are woven together to make history

Course Description
In this course we will survey colonial American history from European contact to 1763. We will explore colonial society and the roots of the American Revolution through lecture and discussion.

Resources
Professor

Dr. Schrems (The “c” is silent)

Email (Best Way to Reach Me)
Email address: mschrems@stlawu.edu
I check messages at least once a day, sometimes twice.
Do not contact me through Sakai.
- You can expect me to respond to email within 24 hours. Don’t wait until the last minute (for example, the morning of an exam) to contact me.

When emailing me,
- Please identify yourself in the subject line by
  o full name; course # or title.

Office visit (during office hours or by appointment)
Approaching me during office hours is
- the best way to ask me a question about a point raised in class
- my preferred way to discuss your exam grade

Sakai
This course has a Sakai site. This syllabus is posted there. During the semester I will post additional relevant information and announcements there. Check it regularly.

**Course Texts**

**Required**
Katz, Murrin & Greenberg (ed.), *Colonial America: Essays in Politics and Social Development*
Shorto, *The Island At the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America*
Skinner, *The Upper Country: French Enterprise in the Colonial Great Lakes*

**Suggested**

**Requirements**

**Class Attendance**
Students are required to arrive on time and be ready to begin class meetings at 12:50. All students must sign an attendance roster and pick up a class agenda before or at the beginning of class. The attendance roster will be made available at the beginning and end of class. Students arriving late will be considered tardy and have to sign the roster at the end of class.

- 2 tardy arrivals will count as an absence.

**Participation**
Class time will be divided between lecture, discussion, and examination. Come to class having read the assigned reading. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

*The use of computers, cell phones or other electronic devices during class meetings is prohibited* unless necessitated by a physical or learning disability. If required, a request must be made through the Office of Services for Students with Special Needs. Any device thus successfully requested must be operated with the Wi-Fi turned OFF.

**Concerning late arrivals and early departures**
If there are mitigating circumstances that will necessitate your late arrival or early departure, please inform me as far in advance as possible, i.e. as soon as you know. Other classes, sports practices, play rehearsals, etc. are not mitigating circumstances.

**Concerning absences**
*If you miss class work or an exam*
All class work (class notes and exams) is the student’s responsibility.

Please note that you are responsible for class notes and work collected in your absence, even if the absence, late arrival or early departure is excused. An excused absence does
not change a due date. If you cannot be in class you are still responsible for getting your work to me on time, unless you have asked for and been granted an extension. (See Makeup Exams and Deadline Extensions)

Exams missed, as the result of an excused absence must be made up before the next exam. In the event that the exam is not made up, the grade becomes a zero. Exams missed due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up and will be recorded as “zero.”

Automatically Excused Absences (Freebies)
You may miss two class meetings without explanation. These are automatically excused absences (Freebies).

WARNING: Students who come to class unprepared (not having done the readings or prepared the discussion questions) will be dismissed. That dismissal will count as an absence: first the two freebies and later as unexcused absences. All students dismissed from class for this reason must meet with the professor to review the work missed before this absence may be redeemed.

Beyond that, the freebies are for you to use as you choose, I offer them as a means to cover unavoidable absences due to illness. The wellness center will not provide a physician’s note for a routine illness, such as a cold or the flu.

Excused Absences
If there are mitigating circumstances that will necessitate your absence (surgery, a doctor’s visit, severe illness or a death in the family are examples), please inform me (email is best) as soon as you know and provide proof (doctor appointment card, funeral card, obituary, etc.) of those circumstances upon your return. In the event of your becoming seriously ill, a physician’s note or notification from the Student Life Office will garner you an excused absence.

Please understand that your informing me of the reason for your absence does not automatically excuse your absence. I will make my determination based on the evidence.

Absences as a result of participation in extracurricular activities (sports, drama, political activism) are not excused. Students participating in said activities must meet with the professor and work out alternative assignments for class meetings missed beyond the freebies.

Redeeming absences
Extra Credit Assignments
LIMIT 2 PER COURSE
Lectures, films, plays, gallery showings, performances, and sporting events take place on and off campus during the course of a semester.

- Attend one of these activities and
Write a one-page summary of the event and its relationship to our exploration of colonial British America including your reaction to the event.

You may earn up to 0.25 point, which I will
• put towards a late assignment,
• use to redeem an unexcused absence, or
• in the event of there being neither a late assignment nor an unexcused absence, I will increase your final grade a maximum of 5 hundredths of a point (0.05) for each satisfactory assignment.

While you may earn extra credit to redeem no more than two absences, you remain responsible for all discussions or assignments, which take place during your absence.

Unexcused Absences
For each class you miss beyond freebies or excused absences, I will deduct 0.05 of a point (using a 4.0 scale) from your final grade.

Assignments (with percent value of final grade)
Précis (10%)
1st Quarter Exam (15%)
Midterm (25%)
Book Review (15%)
Final (35%)

Précis
A précis is a concise summary. Each summary should contain the argument of the author, the historical discussion the author addresses. It will be up to you to distill each assigned reading in *Colonial America* (CAK) into a one-page summary. Use and cite previous readings to explain the context of your own. Ask yourself: “What do these readings have in common? How do they complement or inform one another?”

Précis format
1. Précis must be one page in length. Précis longer than 1 page will not receive any grade. I will not offer you the opportunity to rewrite or resubmit a précis.
2. Your text must be typed, double spaced in either 12 point Times, Times New Roman or Courier font.
3. Top and bottom margins no greater or less than 1 inch. Left and Right margins no greater or less than 1.25 inches.
4. Name, date, course number, and course title must appear in upper right hand corner.
5. Title of the précis will read:
   A précis of (INSERT TITLE OF ARTICLE IN QUOTATIONS) in (Colonial America: Essays in Social and Political Development IN ITALICS)
6. Précis must be printed out and handed in at the beginning of class.

The Rules
1. Assignments not conforming to the précis format will not be accepted.
2. Late précis will not be accepted.
3. Electronic submissions will be accepted only when the student cannot be present. Dr. Schrems must approve the circumstances at least one week prior to the class in question.
4. Assignments not handed in during class without the instructor’s permission will be considered late and will not be accepted.
5. Précis are due on the days they appear on the “schedule of classes and assignments” at the beginning of class.

Exams
1st Quarter Exam
Midterm
Final

All exams will contain essay questions at the very least. Exams will cover all course material up to that point; the final will put more emphasis on material covered since the midterm and will include a question based on a historiographic understanding of some of the material.

On taking exams
Students requiring additional time for exams or to take the exam off-site must inform me in writing prior to the first exam they will need to take off-site.

Book Review Essay
Skinner’s The Upper Country will be the subject of your book review essay.

Address the book in terms of the author’s expressed purpose as well as its historiography. Following a brief summary of the text and an explanation of its format, determine the author’s purpose in writing the book.

Now offer a constructive critique of the author’s effort: What does the author intend the text to communicate to her/his audience?

Now tie your reading to the course. How does this book contribute to your understanding of the course? Would you recommend it to students studying colonial British America? Provide examples.

Length: 8-10 pages

A project sheet for this assignment will be posted on Sakai.

Grading
I will grade everything on a 4.0 scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>92-95</td>
<td>3.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>88-91</td>
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<td>84-87</td>
<td>3.25</td>
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<td>80-83</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>2.75</td>
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</tbody>
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Late Assignments
Late précis WILL NOT be accepted.

Your assignments (not précis) will lose 0.25 point (on a 4.0 scale) for each day it is late. All exams are due at the beginning of class on the date specified in the syllabus. I will not accept assignments during class. Assignments submitted after class will be collected and considered one day late.

I encourage you to establish a personal deadline that falls before the course deadline and turn your assignments in early or on time.

Makeup Exams and Deadline Extensions
Makeup exams and extensions will only be allowed in the event of a documented death in the immediate family or a severe illness documented by a physician or the Student Life Office. In the event that a deadline extension is requested, this proof must be accompanied by a typewritten request (email or hard copy) from the student explaining her or his need for special consideration.

Plagiarism and Cheating

**HISTORY DEPARTMENT COMMON STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

*Policies and sources on academic integrity*
All scholarly endeavor builds on the work of others in the context of the community of learners of which both faculty and students are a part. The integrity of this community can be maintained only by the full, honest, and appropriate acknowledgement of the sources of our data and ideas. The History Department will not tolerate academic dishonesty, including plagiarism on papers, cheating on quizzes and exams, and turning in work you have already submitted in another class. The Department will uphold SLU’s policy on this.

“All students at St. Lawrence University are bound by honor to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. By virtue of membership in the St. Lawrence community, every student accepts the responsibility to know the rules of academic honesty, to abide by them at all times, and to encourage all others to do the same.”

“Plagiarism: Presenting as one’s own work the work of another person—words, ideas, data, evidence, thoughts, information, organizing principles, or style of presentation—
without proper attribution. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing or summarizing without acknowledgment by quotation marks, footnotes, endnotes, or other indices of reference.”

“Responsibility for avoiding behavior or situations from which academic dishonesty may be inferred rests entirely with the students. Claims of ignorance, unintentional error, and academic or personal pressure are not excuses for academic dishonesty. Students should be sure to learn from faculty what is expected as their own work and how the work of other people should be acknowledged. Instructors are expected to maintain conditions which promote academic honesty.”

**Further sources of information**

We expect all of our students to familiarize themselves with the following:

- Your course syllabus and your professor’s stated expectations on class assignments.
- The full SLU policy on “Academic Integrity Procedures” (the basis of the Academic Honor Card that you signed in FYP), described in the *SLU Student Handbook* ([http://www.stlawu.edu/resource/student-handbook](http://www.stlawu.edu/resource/student-handbook))


If, after reviewing these guidelines, you are still uncertain about anything or have questions, be sure to ask them before you turn in written assignments.

**Policies on academic dishonesty**

If your professor encounters a suspicious paper or exam, “s/he has the obligation to call the offending student(s) to account” (*SLU Student Handbook*, 63). Plagiarism cases brought before the Academic Honor Council have resulted in sanctions ranging from failure on the assignment, to failure of the course, to suspension from the University.

**A final caveat:** Do not underestimate your professors’ ability to detect plagiarism, or our willingness to have suspicious papers and exams investigated. If you can find it on the Web, so can we. Please don’t risk it.

**Schedule of Classes & Assignments**

**Texts**

**Required**


Shorto, *The Island At the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America* (*ICW*)


**Suggested**

**WEEK 1**

**W**

Introduction

**WEEK 2**

**M**

CAK- Diamond (1)

*Précis due Wednesday!*

**W**

CAK- Quitt (2) [CAM- Chapter 1]

**WEEK 3**

**M**

500 Nations episode 3, “Clash of Cultures” (to be viewed in class)

[CAM- Chapter 2]

**W**

CAK- Silverman (3) [CAM- Chapter 3]

**WEEK 4**

**M**

**1st QUARTER EXAM!**

**W**

*We Shall Remain: After the Mayflower*

[CAM- Chapter 4]

**SATURDAY**

PRE-APPROVED EXTRA-CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

2015 War or 1812 Heritage Talks, Eben Holden, SLU

8:30-5:00

**WEEK 5**

Reading *The Island at the Center of the World*. No class meetings.

**M**

No class meeting

**W**

No class meeting
WEEK 6
M
Discussion of The Island
[CAM-Chapters 5]

W
Discussion of The Island
[CAM-Chapters 6]

WEEK 7
M
CAK- Vaughan (5) [CAM- Chapter 7]

W
CAK- Warren (6)

WEEK 8
M
MIDTERM EXAM!

W
CAK- Weber (7)

F
MID SEMESTER BREAK

WEEK 9
M
CAK- Stanwood (15) [CAM- Chapter 8]

W
CAK- Murrin (16) [CAM- Chapter 9]

WEEK 10
Reading The Upper Country. No class meetings.
M
No class meeting

W
No class meeting

WEEK 11
We will discuss the following readings in the context of Skinner’s work.
M
CAK - Moogk (8)

W
CAK - Rushforth (19)

**WEEK 12**
M
CAK- Levy (12) [CAM- Chapter 11]

W
CAK- Lockridge (11) [CAM- Chapter 12]

**Friday 11/13** Book Review FULL draft due! (My Piskor mailbox)

**WEEK 13**
M
CAK- Breen (23) [CAM- Chapter 13]

W
CAK- McConville (25)

**WEEK 14**
**FALL BREAK**
M

W

**WEEK 15**
M
CAK- Thornton (22)

W
CAK- Lambert (24) [CAM- Chapter 14]

**WEEK 16**
M
CAK- Gallay (17) [CAM- Chapter 16]

W
Book Review FINAL draft due! (My Piskor mailbox)

F
12/18
Final Exam @ 8:30