

Early Modern Caribbean

HIST 6003 • Fall 2023

PROFESSOR: Dr. Mary Draper
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OFFICE: O'Donohoe 233
OFFICE HOURS: MWF – 10am to 11am
MW – 2pm to 3pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Historian Eric Williams once called the early modern Caribbean “the cockpit of Europe.” It was there—along contested coastlines and crisscrossing maritime routes—that European powers fought battles to control territories, trade, and peoples. This course examines the history of the Caribbean from the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492 to the Age of Revolutions in the late eighteenth century. The intervening three centuries saw the rise of overseas empires, the spread of race-based slavery, the generation of incredible profits from sugar production, and the advent of political revolutions and rebellions. By the end of the semester, we will have a better understanding of the nature of empire, how it was created, altered, and resisted, and who was the forefront of these imperial designs and anti-colonial movements.

OBJECTIVES:

By thoughtfully engaging with course materials and completing assignments, you will be able to:

- Analyze three centuries of Caribbean history, paying close attention to how empire functioned in the region
- Interpret a wide range of sources (both secondary and primary) that chronicle the history of the Caribbean and its people
- Critique the methodologies of secondary sources and the perspectives of primary sources.
- Conduct archival research, synthesis research into research papers, and make an argument based on primary source evidence
- Recognize how the region’s past shapes its present.

READINGS:

Over the course of the semester, you will read five books (all of which are available as e-books via Moffett) in addition to other shorter readings (PDFs available on D2L). The books are as follows:

- Erin Woodruff Stone, *Captives of Conquest: Slavery in the Early Modern Spanish Caribbean* (UPenn, 2021): <https://msutexas.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1244629596>
- Richard S. Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves: The Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies* (OIEAHC for UNC, originally published in 1972, republished in 2000): <https://msutexas.on.worldcat.org/oclc/643534219>
- Vincent Brown, *The Reaper’s Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery* (Harvard, 2008): <https://msutexas.on.worldcat.org/oclc/145732944>

- Elena Schneider, *The Occupation of Havana: War, trade, and slavery in the Atlantic World* (OIEAHC for UNC, 2018): <https://msutexas.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1059576996>
- Tessa Murphy, *The Creole Archipelago: Race and Borders in the Colonial Caribbean* (UPenn, 2021): <https://msutexas.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1272995881>

With the exception of the first book, you will have two weeks to read each of these books. To manage this reading, I suggest reading a chapter at a time over the course of two weeks. Do not leave reading to the last minute, as you will not be able to finish the reading and draft a response paper the same day as class. We will discuss notetaking strategies in class, and I'm happy to discuss this further in office hours.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Your grade for this course is based on the following percentages:

Class Participation and Readings (50%):

Attendance and Participation:	15%
Map Quiz:	5%
Six Weekly Responses (2-3 pgs):	30%

Final Paper (50%):

Two topics memo*:	0%
Topic Proposal:	5%
Primary Source Analysis:	5%
Annotated Bibliography*:	0%
7-10 page Excerpt:	10%
Peer Review of Excerpt:	5%
Revision Plan*:	0%
Final Research Paper (15-20 pgs):	25%

** These assignments are ungraded but required. For each assignment not completed, you will lose 10 points off your final research paper grade.*

GRADING SCALE: A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60, F = 59 and below

ASSIGNMENTS: Please note that all papers and assignments will due online to D2L. Any assignments that you need to submit as a hard-copy are noted on the schedule.

Class Participation and Readings (50%):

- **Attendance and Participation (15%):** All of our classes will be discussion-based. To succeed in this class, you need to prepare for and participate in class discussion. Come ready to talk about the readings, having thought about the posted questions and developed questions of your own. If you have perfect attendance but never speak, your discussion grade cannot be higher than a C. Likewise, if you do not attend class, your discussion

grade will suffer. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. You will be given one unexcused absence. Your grade will drop one letter grade with subsequent absences.

- **Weekly Responses (30%):** You will have eight opportunities to write six response papers. These response papers should be 2-3 pages in length (Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced) and should respond to one of the posted discussion questions unless otherwise noted. As a result, I expect you to make an argument and provide evidence to support that argument. The strongest response papers will cite the readings (either with footnoting or parenthetical citations.) Each of these papers is worth 5% of your grade. Please note that 2-3 pages means two *full* pages at least.

Final Paper (due December 13):

** Notes that assignments designated with an asterisk are ungraded but required. For each of these assignment not completed, you will lose 10 points off your final research paper grade.*

- **Two Topics Memo*:** (~200-250 words for each topic): Propose two potential research topics. In your proposal, explain what (or who) you are interested in studying. Moreover, you should answer the following questions for each possible topic: What questions are driving your research? What sources do you plan to use? Why does this research project matter? What does this research project reveal about the early modern Caribbean? *This is due Wednesday, September 20 (Week 4).*
- **Topic Proposal (5%):** (2-3 pages): Write a 2-3 page essay that outlines your research topic, identifies the questions you hope to answer, and explains why this research is important. Unlike the Two Topics Memo, your proposal should also include an overview of the primary and secondary sources your plan to use. See the instruction sheet on D2L for more information. *This is due Friday, September 29 (Week 5).*
- **Primary Source Analysis (5%):** Write a 2-3 page analysis of a primary source relating to your research project. See the instruction sheet on D2L for more information. *This is due Friday, October 13 (Week 7).*
- **Annotated Bibliography*:** Write an annotated bibliography that includes 10-20 secondary sources. Seven of these sources must be readings (academic books or journal articles) that are not assigned in this course. *This is due Wednesday, October 25 (Week 9).*
- **7-10 page Excerpt of Final Paper (10%):** You will circulate a 7-10 page excerpt of your final paper for peer review. This will allow you to receive feedback from me as well as a partner before completing your final draft. See the instruction sheet on D2L for more information. *This is due Sunday, November 12 (Week 11/12).*
- **Peer Review of Excerpt (5%):** You will provide feedback on another class member's excerpt. See the instruction sheet on D2L for more information. *This due Wednesday, November 15 (Week 12).*

- **Revision Plan*:** You will submit a one-page revision plan that outlines what you will do to complete the final draft of your paper. This plan will take into account feedback from me and your peer reviewer. *This is due Wednesday, November 22 (Week 13).*
- **Final Research Paper of 15-20 pages (25%):** You will produce a polished research paper based on primary source research with an argument situated within the relevant literature. If relevant, this paper can form the basis of one your master's thesis chapters. *The final draft is due Wednesday, December 13 (finals week).*

ACCOMMODATIONS: In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. Students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY: *“As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so.”* Academic misconduct—cheating, collusion, plagiarism, etc.—will not be tolerated and will receive an F. For example, “cutting and pasting” from any internet source or poorly paraphrasing (i.e. changing a few words with the synonym function) without citing that source is plagiarism. Moreover, generating text via AI and citing it as your own is academic misconduct, and the assignment in question will receive an F. It is unacceptable.

DROP DATE: Last Day to drop with a grade of “W” is October 30, 2023. It is the student's responsibility to visit with their academic advisor prior to withdrawing from a class.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS: This class uses D2L. You will find readings, submit papers, and receive announcements through D2L. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings.

E-MAIL RESPONSES: I will make every attempt to respond to e-mails sent during the week within one business day. That said, on weekends and evenings, please be patient if I do not respond immediately. If you e-mail me over the weekend, I might not respond until Monday.

NOTICE: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Look on D2L for any relevant announcements.

E-mail me (mary.draper@msutexas.edu) or visit me during office hours if you have any questions.

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WEEK 1 August 30 <i>Columbus & Colonialism</i>	Before class: <i>Finish Reading:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Excerpts from Christopher Columbus's Journal (accessible via Fordham University's Medieval Sourcebook: https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/columbus1.asp)- Excerpts from Jamaica Kincaid, <i>A Small Place</i> (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1988): PDF on D2L- See discussion questions posted on D2L and circulated via e-mail In-class: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review syllabus, assignments for semester- Discussion of assigned reading (see above)- Map activity- THOMAS-ing a book Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Read Erin Woodruff Stone's <i>Captives of Conquest</i> (due next week)- Write Weekly Response Paper (must write six out of eight)
WEEK 2 September 6 <i>The Origins of Slavery</i>	Before class: <i>Finish Reading:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Erin Woodruff Stone's <i>Captives of Conquest</i> <i>Finish Writing:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Complete Weekly Response Paper (questions posted on D2L) In class: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discussion of Erin Woodruff Stone's <i>Captives of Conquest</i>- Map Quiz- Discuss Database assignment Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Read assigned chapters- Write Weekly Response Paper (must write six out of eight)- Begin reading Richard Dunn's <i>Sugar and Slaves</i> (due Sept. 20)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Familiarize yourself with one primary source database (assigned during class) and be prepared to present next class about that database
WEEK 3 September 13 <i>Maritime Marauders</i>	<p>Before class:</p> <p><i>Finish Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excerpts from Defoe's <i>A General History of the Pyrates</i> (1724) - Introduction, Ch. 1 and Ch. 2 from Kris E. Lane, <i>Pillaging the Empire: Piracy in the Americas, 1500-1750</i> (1998) <p><i>Continue Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Richard Dunn's <i>Sugar and Slaves</i> (due Sept. 20) <p><i>Finish Writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Weekly Response Paper (questions posted on D2L) <p><i>Other:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Database assignment <p>In class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of primary source and chapters from Lane - Presentation of databases - What makes a good research topic? <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read reading Richard Dunn's <i>Sugar and Slaves</i> (due next week) - Write Weekly Response Paper (must write six out of eight)
WEEK 4 September 20 <i>The Planter Class</i>	<p>Before class:</p> <p><i>Finish Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Richard Dunn's <i>Sugar and Slaves</i> <p><i>Finish Writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Weekly Response Paper (questions posted on D2L) - Complete Two Topics Memo <p>In class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of Richard Dunn's <i>Sugar and Slaves</i> - Partner discussion of Two Topics Memos - Drafting a Research Proposal <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read assigned articles - Begin reading Vincent Brown's <i>The Reaper's Garden</i> (due October 4) - Write Weekly Response Paper (must write six out of eight) - Complete Topic Proposal (due next Friday)
WEEK 5	Before class:

<p>September 27</p> <p><i>Historiography</i></p>	<p><i>Finish Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction from <i>Early American Studies</i> special edition on Richard Dunn - Select articles from <i>Early American Studies</i> <p><i>Continue Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue reading Vincent Brown's <i>The Reaper's Garden</i> (due October 4) <p><i>Finish Writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Weekly Response Paper (questions posted on D2L) - Complete Topic Proposal (due Friday) <p>In class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of the state of field through the <i>Early American Studies</i> special edition - Introduction to Slave Voyages Database <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit Topic Proposal by Friday, September 29 - Read Vincent Brown's <i>The Reaper's Garden</i> (due next week) - Write Weekly Response Paper (must write six out of eight) - Complete Slave Voyages Database Activity
<p>WEEK 6</p> <p>October 4</p> <p><i>Slavery and Death</i></p>	<p>Before class:</p> <p><i>Finish Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vincent Brown's <i>The Reaper's Garden</i> <p><i>Finish Writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Weekly Response Paper (questions posted on D2L) <p><i>Other:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Slave Voyages Database Activity <p>In class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of Vincent Brown's <i>The Reaper's Garden</i> - Share findings from Slave Voyages Database <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read assigned article - Write Weekly Response Paper (must write six out of eight) - Complete Primary Source Analysis (due next Friday) - Begin reading Elena Schneider's <i>The Occupation of Havana</i> (due Oct. 18)
<p>WEEK 7</p> <p>October 11</p> <p><i>Slavery and Freedom</i></p>	<p>Before class:</p> <p><i>Finish Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shauna Sweeney's "Market Marronage: Fugitive Women and Jamaica's Internal Marketing System, 1781-1834" <i>William & Mary Quarterly</i> vol. 76, no.2, April 2019, 197-222.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skim advertisements for runaways: https://ufdcimages.uflib.ufl.edu/AA/00/02/11/44/00001/JamaicaRunawaySlaves-18thCentury.pdf <p><i>Continue Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elena Schneider's <i>The Occupation of Havana</i> <p><i>Finishing Writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Weekly Response Paper (questions posted on D2L) - Complete Primary Source Analysis due Friday <p>In class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of Sweeney's "Market Marronage" - The Archive and Slavery - How to Write an Annotated Bibliography <p>Assignments:</p> <p><i>Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit Primary Source Analysis by Friday, October 13 - Read Elena Schneider's <i>The Occupation of Havana</i> (due next week) - Write Weekly Response Paper (must write six out of eight)
<p>WEEK 8 October 18</p> <p><i>Imperial Wars</i></p>	<p>Before class:</p> <p><i>Finish Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elena Schneider's <i>The Occupation of Havana</i> <p><i>Finish Writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Weekly Response Paper (questions posted on D2L) <p>In class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of Elena Scheider's <i>The Occupation of Havana</i> <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Begin reading Tessa Murphy's <i>The Creole Archipelago</i> (due Nov. 1) - Work on Annotated Bibliography (due next Wednesday). Bring hard copy to class.
<p>WEEK 9 October 25</p> <p><i>Workshopping Day</i></p>	<p>Before class:</p> <p><i>Finish Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No assigned reading for this week. <p><i>Continue Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tessa Murphy's <i>Creole Archipelago</i> <p><i>Finish writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Annotated Bibliography before class on Wednesday. Bring hard copy to class. <p>In class:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Historiographical Framing - Workshopping Annotated Bibliographies <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Tessa Murphy's <i>The Creole Archipelago</i> (due next week) - Write Weekly Response Paper (must write six out of eight)
<p>WEEK 10 November 1</p> <p><i>The Age of Revolutions</i></p>	<p>Before class:</p> <p><i>Finish Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tessa Murphy's <i>The Creole Archipelago</i> <p><i>Finish Writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Weekly Response Paper (questions posted on D2L) <p>In class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of Tessa Murphy's <i>The Creole Archipelago</i> <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work on 7-10 page excerpt of your research paper (due Sunday, November 12)
<p>WEEK 11 November 8</p> <p><i>No class</i></p>	<p>No class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work on 7-10 page excerpt of your research paper (due Sunday, November 12)
<p>WEEK 12 November 15</p> <p><i>Peer Review & Editing</i></p>	<p>Before class:</p> <p><i>Finish Writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finish the 7-10 page excerpt of your research paper, submit to Dr. Draper by Sunday, November 12 - Look for e-mail from Dr. Draper with Peer Review assignment on Monday - Complete peer review before class on Wednesday. Bring hard copy to class. <p>In class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-Class Discussion of Peer Reviews <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schedule meeting with Dr. Draper on Nov. 16, 17, 20, or 21. <p>To do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work on revision plan (due Wednesday, November 22)
<p>WEEK 13 November 22</p>	<p>No Class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings with Dr. Draper on Nov. 16, 17, 20, or 21.

<p><i>No class</i></p>	<p>Finish Writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revision Plan due on Wednesday, November 22. <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue working on research paper (15-20 pages). - Prepare for in-class presentations. Presentations should be 10-15 minutes long.
<p>WEEK 14 November 29</p> <p><i>No class</i></p>	<p>No Class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue revising your research paper (15-20 pages) - Read “The Root of Haiti’s Misery: Reparations to Enslavers,” <i>The New York Times</i>, originally published May 20, 2022, updated November 16, 2022: https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/20/world/americas/haiti-history-colonized-france.html
<p>WEEK 15 December 6</p> <p><i>Why does Caribbean History matter?</i></p>	<p>Before class: <i>Finish Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “The Root of Haiti’s Misery: Reparations to Enslavers,” <i>The New York Times</i>, originally published May 20, 2022, updated November 16, 2022: https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/20/world/americas/haiti-history-colonized-france.html <p>In class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final discussion & class wrap-up - Brief Research Paper Presentations <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finish final draft of research paper (15-20 pages). Submit to Dr. Draper by Wednesday, December 13.
<p>FINALS WEEK</p>	<p><i>Final draft of paper (15-20 pages) due Wednesday, December 13th.</i></p>

*** Readings, assignments, and schedule subject to change ***