SYLLABUS UNDER REVISION!

University of Pennsylvania

Department of History

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Spring 2015 Office hours: TBA

**SINNERS, SEX, AND SLAVES:**

**RACE AND SEX IN EARLY AMERICA**

This course explores the lost worlds of sinners, witches, sexual offenders, rebellious slaves, and Native American prophets from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century. Using the life stories of unusual individuals from the past, we try to make sense of their contentious relationships with their societies. By following the careers of the troublemakers, the criminals, the rebels, and the reformers, we also learn about the foundations of social order and the impulse to reform that rocked American society during the nineteenth century. The lives of these unique “movers and shakers” help us to understand the issues that Americans debated in the years leading up to the Civil War.

**Required Texts** (available for purchase at Penn Book Center, 130 34th St., 222-7600)

Rachel Cleves, Charity and Sylvia

Richard Godbeer, The Salem Witch Hunt

Kenneth Greenberg, Confessions of Nat Turner

Yasuhide Kawashima, Igniting King Philip’s War

Mark Smith, ed., Stono

Margaret Washington, ed., Narrative of Sojourner Truth

David Walker, Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World

**All other readings available on Canvas**

**Course Requirements:**

1. Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend class and section faithfully, complete all assigned reading, and participate in discussions. Failure to do so will hurt your grade. Attendance and participation are worth 15% of your grade.

1. Short Essays

Each student must complete three short essays of 3-4 pages in length during the semester. At least one of these must be completed before spring break. You will have the option to revise one of these essays during the semester to improve your writing and fine tune your interpretation. A good essay analyzes two weeks of reading, offering explanations and interpretations of the primary sources (marked with an asterisk) and commenting on the secondary literature (the essays and books by historians). The primary sources should drive your interpretation even though they will be more difficult to work with. These essays constitute 60% of your grade.

1. Final Examination

The final examination is based on readings, lectures, class discussion, and your own essays. It is cumulative and will include a take-home section and an objective section. The exam is worth 25% of your grade.

**Week 1**: Introduction

Jan. 14 (Monday classes today)

**Week 2**: **Old World Visions of Order and New World Challenges**

Jan. 19 NO CLASS

Jan. 21 \*Filmer, Patriarcha or the Natural Power of Kings, ch. 1, “That the First Kings were the Fathers of Families” [www.constitution.org/eng/patriarcha/htm] C

\*Locke, “Two Treatises of Government” ch. 6, “Of Paternal Power,” ch. 7, “Of Political or Civil Society” [www.lonang.com/exlibris/locke] C

\*Letter from Columbus C

Brown, “Changed into the Fashion of Man,” Journal of the History of Sexuality (1995) C

**Week 3: Brides of Christ, Dissenters, and Sinners**

Jan. 26/Jan. 28

Godbeer, “Love Raptures” New England Quarterly 68 (Sept. 1995) C

\*Hutchinson Trial Transcript C

Godbeer, “’The Cry of Sodom’” William and Mary Quarterly, 3d Series, Vol LII, April 1995 C

Brown, “Murderous Uncleanness” C

**Week 4**: **Native Americans revolt**

Feb. 2/Feb. 4

Yasuhide Kawashima, Igniting King Philip’s War

**Week 5**: **Witches Everywhere**

Feb. 9/Feb. 11

\*Godbeer, The Salem Witch Hunt

**Week 6**: **Turning people into slaves**

Feb. 16/Feb. 18

Brown, Good Wives, Nasty Wenches (excerpt) C

\*Runaway Advertisements C

\*Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia (excerpt) C

**Week 7:** **Africans rebel**

Feb. 23/Feb. 25

\*Mark Smith, ed., Stono

**Week 8: Colonists rebel**

Mar. 2/Mar. 4

\*Declaration of Independence C

\*Boston Tea Party primary documents C

**SPRING BREAK MARCH 7-15**

**Week 9**: **Native peoples resist U.S. domination**

Mar. 16/Mar. 18

Adam Jortner, Gods of Prophetstown (excerpt) C

**Week 10**: **Rising up against slavery**

Mar. 23/ Mar. 25

\*David Walker’s Appeal

\*Greenberg, Confessions of Nat Turner C

**Week 11** **The Love that dare not speak its name**

Mar. 30/ April 1

Rachel Cleve, Charity and Sylvia

**Week 12**: **Prostitutes, Gold Miners, and Counterfeiters**

April 6/April 8

Patricia Cline Cohen, The Murder of Helen Jewett (excerpt) C

Susan Johnson, Roaring Camp (excerpt) C

Stephen Mihm, A Nation of Counterfeiters (excerpt) C

**Week 13**: **Fillibusters’ Dreams of Empire**

April 13/April 15

Amy Greenberg, Manifest Manhood (excerpt) C

Hodson, “Storm Over Mexico” C

**Week 14** **Prophets**

April 20/April 22

\*“William Miller and His Followers” [see links to Miller’s Scene of the Last Day, Miler’s The Signs of the Times, New York Herald’s Coverage, Millerism and Antislavery] C

\*Joseph Smith Revelation C

\*Narrative of Sojourner Truth

**Week 15 Abolitionists**

April 27/April 29

\*Thomas Dew, “Text of the Proslavery Argument,” (1832) C

\*Catharine Beecher, “An Essay on Slavery and Abolitionism” C

\*“Pastoral letter of the General Association of Congregational Ministers” (1837) C

\*Angelina Grimke, “Appeal to the Christian Women of the South,” (1837) C

\*Sarah Grimke, “Letters on the Equality of the Sexes” (1837) C

\*George Fitzhugh, “The Universal Law of Slavery” C

\*Dr. Samuel Cartwright, “Diseases and Peculiarities of the Negro Race,” (1851) C

Berkin, “Sarah and Angelina Grimke: Abolitionist Sisters” C