

HISTORY 3750
Encounter and Transformation in the Atlantic World, 1450-1700
Online Summer Term: 4 May to 12 June 2026
Instructor: Dr. Mitchell Hammond
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DRAFT OUTLINE

Course Description:

This course investigates the social and cultural changes that flowed from contact between American, African and European peoples from the mid-15th to the later 17th centuries. Topics will include the initial conflicts among Europeans and Indigenous societies in Meso-America; the far-reaching demographic impact of intercontinental contact; the formation of Atlantic economic patterns often rooted in forced labor; and the reciprocal cultural impact of Atlantic encounters.

Course Delivery:

The main course platform (EXCLUDING the final exam) is online and asynchronous. There will be a 10-minute live interview scheduled during a three-day window later in the course. All required course materials will be available in Brightspace or through the Weldon Library website.

The final exam will be held in-person, at Western University on Monday, June 15 at 2:00 pm.

Course Syllabus:

Students will build the following competencies and skills:

- Identify and describe key events and concepts in the history of the Atlantic World
- Consider the diverse relationships among European, Indigenous and African peoples in the Americas and elsewhere
- Evaluate diverse forms of historical evidence and cultivate interpretive skills
- Strengthen writing skills with attention to composition for history and related disciplines

Course Materials:

Readings will be posted in OWL or available online through Weldon Library. Presentations will be posted in OWL. Assignments will be based on class readings in addition to other materials that students find in their research.

Required Texts: John Birmingham, *Trade and Empire in the Atlantic* (online at Weldon)
Other readings will include chapters from David Carrasco, *Aztecs: A Very Short Introduction*; Thomas Benjamin, *The Atlantic World: Europeans, Africans, Indians and Their Shared History, 1400-1900*; Kenneth Townsend, *First Americans: A History of Native Peoples*; and Robert

Harms, *Africa in Global History*

Methods of Evaluation:

Students must submit all assignments and complete the exam to pass the course.

(required) Two multiple-choice online exercises completed between May 11-12 and May 18-19.

(20%) A timed midterm completed asynchronously in a window on May 24-25

(15%) Essay (~3000 words) with footnotes and bibliography in Chicago Manual of style format due Monday, June 8

(15%) A 10-minute in person interview scheduled between Thursday June 11 and Saturday June 13

(50%) **In-person final exam:** 2:00pm-5:00 pm Monday, June 15

Assignment Submission Policy: For this short class, an ability to meet deadlines is essential. The exercises on assigned reading, and the midterm exam must be completed during the stated time unless a documented consideration is granted from Academic Advising. Essays will not be accepted without a documented consideration and late submission may cause a delay in the interview. The final exam must be taken at the stated time unless a documented consideration is granted, and any make-up final must also be taken in person at Western.

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.