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HIST 8010
Seminar in Early American History
Fall 2007, W 2:30-5:30 LeConte Hall 102 (65-563)

Course description: The goal of this course is for you to write a publishable article. To that end, assigned reading is minimal. Instead, most of the coursework consists of writing assignments. Classes will sometimes be dedicated to general discussions about research and writing but more often will be run as workshops, in which we discuss the pieces you have written. The course will be a cooperative enterprise in which each of you is invested in the success of each other's project.

Requirements:

·Written work. In addition to the final article, students are required to complete a series of short assignments, as noted in the syllabus calendar. The assignments are **due on Mondays at noon** and must be posted to the course listserv: HIST8010@listserv.uga.edu. All students are responsible for reading all posted papers by class time.

·Discussion. All students are expected to participate actively in class. You are expected to read each other's work carefully and to offer thoughtful and helpful comments.

·Workshops. All students must attend the Georgia workshops in Early American history and culture on the following Fridays at 3:30 PM: 9/21, 10/12. The essays are available to download from <http://www.uga.edu/colonialseminar/Upcoming.htm>. Your active participation in these workshops will be reflected in your class participation grade. If you cannot attend a workshop because of a conflict, you must write a four-page critical review of that week's paper.

Grading:

Class participation:	10%
Article:	55%
Short assignments (5% each):	35%

Calendar:

Week 1: Introduction

8/22 Course overview.

Week 2: Note Taking

8/29 Presentation: Report on your paper topic.

Reading: William Strunk, Jr., and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*

Week 3: Bibliography

9/5 Written Assignment: Prepare a five to seven-page paper on your secondary and primary sources. What are the critical secondary works and why? What primary sources are most important? What are their strengths and weaknesses?

Reading: David Hackett Fischer, *Washington's Crossing*

Week 4: Prospectus

9/12 Written Assignment: Prepare a five to seven-page prospectus outlining the significance and shape of your project.

Reading:
http://fellowships.ssrc.org/art_of_writing_proposals

William Cronon, "A Place for Stories: Nature, History, and Narrative," *Journal of American History* 78 (1992), 1347-76.

Week 5: Style

9/19 Written Assignment: Take a moment, event, or person from the subject of your research and write a description in the style of David McCullough or David Hackett Fischer, as if you were a best-selling author. Your essay should be two to three pages.

Reading: (on reserve: password=style)

Francis Parkman, *History of the Conspiracy of Pontiac*, chap. 31.

David McCullough, *1776*, chap. 1, pp. 3-19.

Joyce Chaplin, *Subject Matter: Technology, the Body, and Science on the Anglo-American Frontier, 1500-*

1676, chap. 7, pp. 243-79.

Ben Yagoda, *The Sound on the Page: Style and Voice in Writing*, chapter 6, "What Writers Talk About When They Talk About Style."

Week 6: Working with Primary Documents

9/26 Written Assignment: Prepare a five to seven-page paper that analyzes one or two primary documents from your research. The paper should place the document in historical *and* historiographical context and show how the it sheds light on the past.

Reading: John Demos, *The Unredeemed Captive: A Family Story from Early America*

Week 7: Draft introduction

10/3 Written Assignment: Write an introduction to your paper.

Week 8: Working with Primary Documents

10/10 Written Assignment: Prepare a five to seven-page paper that analyzes one or two primary documents from your research. The paper should place the document in historical *and* historiographical context and show how the it sheds light on the past.

Week 9: draft conclusion

10/17 Written Assignment: Write a conclusion to your paper.

Reading: Kathleen DuVal, *The Native Ground: Indians and Colonists in the Heart of the Continent*

Week 10: Archival Research

10/24

Week 11: Archival Research

10/31

Week 12: Progress report

11/7 Meet in my office to discuss your papers.

Week 13: Archival Research

11/14

Thanksgiving Holiday

11/21

Week 14: Archival Research

11/28

Week 15: Papers Due

12/5