

English 2560V: Transatlantic Studies
 Fall 2009
 Professor Gould
 328 Carr House
Philip_Gould@Brown.edu (3-3736)

Description

This is a graduate seminar designed to introduce students to the field of transatlantic studies. It reconsiders American literary history by reading important works that have been produced through transatlantic cultural exchanges. The course situates transatlantic literary studies in a number of historical and cultural contexts, including postwar cultural nationalism, postcolonial studies, and cosmopolitanism. It is structured on a number of major literary and cultural subjects—race and slavery, romanticism, book history, and sentimental culture—in order to locate the critical ramifications of reading beyond national boundaries.

Required Texts

Addison, *Cato and Selected Essays* (Liberty); Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic* (Harvard UP); Larsen, *Quicksand* (Penguin); McGill, *American Literature and the Culture of Reprinting* (Penn); Ed. Porte, *Emerson's Prose and Poetry* (Norton); Sedgwick, *The Linwoods* (U New England P); Tamarkin, *Anglophilia* (Chicago); Tyler, *The Algerine Captive* (Modern Library).

Course Requirements

Short essay 20%
 Review essay 20%
 Class work 20%
 Research paper 40%

Class Schedule

Week 1
 (9/10)

Theoretical and critical introduction

Readings: Giles, "British American Literature" (in *Transatlantic Insurrections*); Stevens, "Transatlanticism Now"; Armitage, "Three Concepts of Atlantic History"; Warner, "What's Colonial about Colonial America?" (in *Possible Pasts*); Bailyn, "The Idea of Atlantic History"; Colcanis, "Atlantic World or Atlantic/World?"; Greene, "Colonial History and National History"

I. The Black Atlantic

Week 2
 (9/17)

Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*

Week 3
(9/24) Delany, *Blake*

II. Postwar Cultural Nationalism and the Making of “American” Literature

Week 4
(10/1) Mathiessen, *American Renaissance*; Trilling, “The Meaning of a Literary Idea”; F.R. Leavis, “The Americanness of American Literature”;

Emerson, *Nature*, “The American Scholar,” “The Divinity School Address,” “The Over Soul,” “The Poet.”

Week 5
(10/8) Buell, “American Literary Emergence as a Postcolonial Phenomenon”; Dimock, “Deep Time: American Literature and World History”; Giles, “Transnationalism and Classic American Literature”

Emerson, “Experience,” “Montaigne, or the Skeptic,” “Fate,” “Quotation and Originality,” “Thoughts on Modern Literature,” “Hamatreya,” “Brahma.” Other selected poems and journal entries.

SHORT ESSAY DUE

III. Colonial and Imperial Cultures in the 18th-century British Atlantic

Week 6
(10/15) Joseph Addison, *Cato* and selections from the *Spectator*
Ellison, *Cato’s Tears* (48-73)
Furtwangler, “Cato at Valley Forge”
Knott, *Sensibility and the American Revolution* (153-93)

Week 7
(10/22) Tyler, *The Algerine Captive*
Davidson, *Revolution and the Word* (190-210)
Gould, *Barbaric Traffic* (chapter 3)

IV. 19th-Century Transatlantic Cultural Formations: English and American Books

Week 8
(10/29) McGill, *American Literature and the Culture of Reprinting*
Selected tales of Edgar Allan Poe

REVIEW ESSAY DUE

Week 9

(11/5) Tamarkin, *Anglophilia*

V. Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism

Week 10

(11/12) Sedgwick, *The Linwoods*
Readings from *Cosmopolitics*

Week 11

(11/19) Larsen, *Quicksand*

Week 12 Thanksgiving vacation

Week 13

(12/3) Conferences; Research project presentations

RESEARCH PAPER DUE 12/11

Reserve Readings

Armitage, David. "Three Concepts of Atlantic History." *The British Atlantic World, 1500-1800*. Eds. Armitage and Michael J. Braddick. Palgrave Macmillan, 2002. 11-27.

Bailyn, Bernard. *Atlantic History: Concepts and Contours*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2005.

Buell, Lawrence. "American Literary Emergence as a Postcolonial Phenomenon." *ALH* 4 (1992): 411-42.

Cheah, Pheng and Bruce Robbins, eds. *Cosmopolitics* Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1

Colcanis, Peter. "Atlantic World or Atlantic/World?" *William and Mary Quarterly* 63 (2006): 725-742.

Davidson, Cathy N. *Revolution and the Word: The Rise of the Novel in America*. New York: Oxford UP, 1986.

- Ellison, Julie. *Cato's Tears and the Making of Anglo-American Emotion*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1999.
- Furtwangler, Albert. *American Silhouettes: Rhetorical Identities of the Founders*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1987.
- Dimock, Wai Chee. "Deep Time: American Literature and World History." *ALH* 13 (2001):
- Giles, Paul. *Transatlantic Insurrections: British Culture and the Formation of American Literature, 1730-1860*. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P, 2001.
- ". "Transnationalism and Classic American Literature." *PMLA* 118 (2003): 62-77.
- Harris, Sharron and Mark Kamrath, eds. *Periodical Literature in Eighteenth-Century America*. Knoxville: U of Tennessee P, 2005.
- Kaplan, Amy and Donald Pease. *Cultures of United States Imperialism*. Durham: Duke UP, 1993.
- Knott, Sarah. *Sensibility and the American Revolution*. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 2009.
- Mathiessen, F.O. *American Renaissance: Art and Expression in the Age of Whitman and Emerson*. New York: Oxford UP, 1941.
- Stevens, Laura. "Transatlanticism Now." *ALH* (2004): 93-102.
- Trilling, Lionel. *The Liberal Imagination: Essays on Literature and Society*. New York: Viking, 1950.
- Warner, Michael. "What's Colonial about in St. George, Robert Blair, ed. *Possible Pasts: Becoming Colonial in Early America*. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P, 2001.

Digital Resources

Many of the following web sites have links to numerous databases, scholarly resources, and teaching materials.

American Antiquarian Society www.americanantiquarian.org/

American Literature Association www.calstatela.edu/academic/english/ala/

American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies

www.press.jhu.edu/associations/asecs/

Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery www.hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/

Common-Place (Electronic Journal) www.common-place.org/

Early American Literature www.cla.sc.edu/engl/eal/

Early Americas Digital Archive www.mith2.umd.edu/eada/index.jsp

Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Race, Slavery, and Abolition

www.yale.edu/glc/

McNeil Center for Early American Studies www.mceas.org/

Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture www.wm.edu/oieahc/

Society of Early Americanists www.hnet.uci.edu/mclark/seapage.htm