

HIST32241 Cultural Entanglements: Life and Death in Seventeenth-Century North America

Zoom consultation, June 13th 12pm
Meeting ID: 926 9877 6713

Course Content

1. *Perspectives and Methodologies*
2. *First Encounters: The World of Tsenacommacah*
3. *Climate and Colonisation*
4. *Foodways, Subsistence, and Resistance*
5. *Health, Disease, and the Body (At John Rylands Library)*
6. *Plantation Economies and Botanical Legacies*
7. *Family and Kinship*
8. *Trade, Power, and Prestige*
9. *Global America and the Pursuit of Stuff*
10. *Importing and Remaking England*
11. *A Land Transformed? (At Manchester Museum)*



In 1607 around one hundred men and boys sailed from England to the 'New World', arriving in a place that they often described as a 'Virgin land' ripe for English exploitation. This region of North America, however, was already well populated and home to several Indigenous communities with rich and diverse cultures, societies, and political structures. Soon after the English arrival, the first West Africans were documented in the colony of Virginia and by the mid seventeenth century slavery was fully institutionalised and codified throughout the English colonies. This course explores the entangled cultural histories of those that lived in North America, either by choice or through force, in the seventeenth century. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, students will explore the diverse and often conflicting cultural expectations and beliefs that shaped daily life and helped forge new societies and community identities in seventeenth-century North America.





How is it taught?

3-hour weekly seminar

How is it assessed?

Primary source analysis – 1,500 words, 30%

Essay – 3,000, 70%



What will you learn?

- To analyse the impact of Indigenous communities and Black people on the cultural, social, and economic history of seventeenth-century North America.
- To evaluate how historians can interpret the past through material and archaeological survivals.
- To understand and critique historical debates surrounding the development of English colonies in North America.
- To assess the entangled nature of early modern American cultural history.

Preliminary Reading

Cronon, William, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England* (New York, 2003).

Kopelson, Heather Miyano, “‘One Indian and a negroe, the first thes islands ever had’ Imagining the archive in Early Bermuda’, *Early American Studies*, 11:2 (2013), 272-313.

Mancall, Peter C., James Horn and Paul Musselwhite (eds.), *Virginia 1619: Slavery and Freedom in the Making of English America* (Chapel Hill, 2019).

Morgan, Jennifer, *Reckoning with Slavery: Gender, Kinship and Capitalism in the Early Black Atlantic* (Durham, 2021).

Richter, Daniel K., *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America* (Cambridge, 2001).