

FALL 2023

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# INDEPENDENT STUDY: READINGS IN COLONIAL AND EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

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Dr. Camden Burd



## INDEPENDENT STUDY REPORT

TERM: \_\_\_\_ Fall 2023 \_\_\_\_

Student:

E#:

Course number and CRN: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours of credit: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: Dr. Camden Burd

E#:

Work required:

### Readings in Colonial and Early American History Fall 2023

**Overview:** This independent study will examine the important works dealing with the history of colonial North American and the United States until the Civil War era. The goal of the class is to provide the student with a historiographical overview of works that have shaped historians' understandings of the era.

**Assignments:** The student will complete a 600-word review of each reading. The review should examine the readings' arguments, structure, and historiographical significance. Those same reviews should also connect to other scholarship that we will examine throughout the semester (this be expected more-and-more as the student reads more books throughout the course). The review will be due at midnight on the Wednesday of the noted week. This will give the student a week to read each text. Certain texts will require more time and the student will have two weeks to complete those books (those are noted in the syllabus). The student and instructor will also meet each week to discuss the book and the reviews (these can be virtual meetings). **These 12 written reviews will make up 60% of the final grade. Discussions will make up 20%. The final historiographic essay will be 20%.**

#### Week 1 – Introductions, Expectations, and Establishing a Plan

#### Week 2 – Due August 30

**Read:** Robert Michael Morrissey, *People of the Ecotone: Environment and Indigenous Power at the Center of Early America* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2022)

#### Week 3 – Due September 6

**Read:** David D. Hall, *Worlds of Wonder, Days of Judgement: Popular Religious Belief in Early New England* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990)

#### Week 4 – Due September 13

**Read:** Peter Silver, *Our Savage Neighbors: How Indian War Transformed Early America* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2009)

**Week 5 – Due September 20**

**Read:** Timothy Breen, *Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004)

**Week 6 – Due September 27**

**Read:** Caroline Winterer, *American Enlightenments: Pursuing Happiness in the Age of Reason* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2018)

**Week 7 – Due October 4**

**Read:** William H. Bergmann, *The American National State and the Early West* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012)

**Week 8 – Due October 11**

**Read:** Walter Johnson. *River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2017)

**Week 9 – Due October 18**

**Read:** John Lauritz Larson, *Laid Waste! The Culture of Exploitation in Early America* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019)

**Week 10 – Due October 25**

**Read:** Anne F. Hyde, *Empires, Nations, and Families: A New History of the North American West, 1800-1860* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2011)

**Week 11 – Due November 1**

**Read:** Continue reading Anne F. Hyde, *Empires, Nations, and Families: A New History of the North American West, 1800-1860* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2011)

**Week 12 – Due November 8**

**Read:** Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007)

**Week 13 – Due November 15**

**Read:** Continue reading Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007)

**Week 14 – Due November 22**

**NO ASSIGNMENT – THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**Week 15 – Due November 29**

**Reading:** Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War* (New York: Penguin Random House, 2008)

**Week 16 – Due December 6**

**Read:** Henry Louis Gates, Jr., *Stony The Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow* (New York: Penguin Random House, 2019)

**EXAM – Final Historiographic Essay (Due December 13)**

**PLEASE INITIAL**

Approved by: Student  
Faculty Member  
Graduate/Honors/Undergraduate Advisor \_\_\_\_  
Department Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_