

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 2005-2006

HISTORY 600: French and English Views of Foreigners and the "Exotic", 1700-1815
Tuesday 1:20-3:20
Office hours: Tues. 3:30-5:30

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This research seminar focuses on British and French attitudes toward people of other lands. While we will define "foreign" broadly, the readings place a particular focus on attitudes toward the Americas, which figured especially prominently in Enlightenment discourse. (To a much lesser extent, we will include writing about Africa, the South Pacific, and the Middle East.) During the Enlightenment and revolutionary era, contact with other countries and peoples encouraged Europeans to debate and write about a wide range of topics, including human nature and sexuality, politics, racial identity, Christianity and religion, slavery, diverse cultural practices, the impact of climate on culture, etc. Since France and England were the dominant colonial powers in the West, their debates played a crucial role in forging long-term European attitudes toward other parts of the world.

The major purpose of the seminar is to offer students the opportunity to do a primary-source research paper on some aspect of French or British attitudes toward the foreign in this era. Students can write on diverse topics, focus on views about any geographic area of the world, and choose from a wide variety of sources for the paper. All sorts of individuals contributed to European debates about foreigners, including authors of travelogues, novels, political theory, personal letters, fantasy literature, caricature and pamphlets, etc. During the first half of the course, we will do some background reading and sample a variety of primary sources. The second half of the course will be devoted to researching and writing your papers, and also discussing each other's research projects.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The central requirement of this course is a research paper (c. 20-25 pp.) on a topic related to French or English views of foreigners. Choice of topic and compilation of bibliography will begin early in the semester, and the second half of the semester will focus primarily on the research and writing of the paper. Short assignments earlier in the semester will be oriented toward preparing you for this final paper. These short assignments include: a short 5-page paper analyzing primary material; a two-page proposal; a bibliography; an outline; a group discussion of topics. Rough drafts of the final paper are due on Nov. 22 and will be shared & discussed by groups. Final paper is due Dec. 13. Participation in seminar discussions is also a crucial requirement of the course.

The books marked with an asterisk (*) have been ordered at the University Bookstore and placed on reserve at H.C. White. Other articles and documents are in a packet available at the Copy Center in the basement of the Humanities Building in room 1650 or on reserve in H.C. White.

Week 1: (Sept 6) INTRODUCTION

Week 2: (Sept 13) THE ENLIGHTENMENT & THE "NOBLE SAVAGE"

Dorinda Outram, The Enlightenment (N.Y., 1995), 63-79

Sankar Muthu, Enlightenment against Empire (Princeton, 2003), 244-51

Baron de Lahontan, A Dialogue between the Author and Adario, part of New Voyages to North-America (Chicago, 1905), 517-35, 549-50, 570-89, 605-18 (out of print old delicate book)

Buffon, A Natural History, General and Particular, in Race and the Enlightenment: A Reader, ed.

Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze (Oxford, Engl., 1997), 15-28

If you feel that you need the background, read Jane Sampson, Race and Empire (London, 2005), 26-42

Week 3: (Sept 20): CLIMATE AND RACE

Mary Louise Pratt, "Scratches on the Face of the Country; or, What Mr. Barrows Saw in the Land of the Bushmen" in Facing Each Other: The World's Perception of Europe and Europe's Perception of the World, ed. Anthony Pagden (Burlington, Vt., 2000), 517-542

Dror Wahrman, "Climate, Civilization, and Complexion: The Varieties of Race" in his The Making of the Modern Self: Identity and Culture in Eighteenth-Century England (New Haven, 2004), 83-126

Excerpts from Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Mungo Park in The West in the Wider World, vol. 2, ed. Richard Lim and David K. Smith (Boston, 2003), 112-117

Montesquieu, from The Spirit of the Laws in Selected Political Writings, ed. Melvin Richter (Indianapolis, 1990), 194-200

Week 4: (Sept 27) GENDER, THE NOVEL, & THE AMERICAS

* Françoise de Graffigny, Letters from a Peruvian Woman, 1-174

Brief sections from "America" in Encyclopedia Britannica, 3rd ed. (Edinburgh, 1797). Read the passages between the arrows & look at the maps and illustrations.

* William Kelleher Storey, Writing History: A Guide for Students, 87-111. Read this advice on writing before you write your document paper.

*** SHORT PAPER DUE, Friday, Sept. 30 at 5 pm in my Box #5031 on the 5th floor of Humanities;
Document analysis

Week 5: (Oct 4) CUSTOMS, RELIGION, & SEXUALITY

Lady Montagu, The Complete Letters of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, vol. 1, 1708-1720, ed. Robert Halsband (Oxford, 1965), 310-330, 337-340

Diderot, from Supplement to Bougainville's Voyage, in The Enlightenment: A Sourcebook and Reader, ed. Paul Hyland (London, 2003), 319-27

J. Hector Saint-John de Crèvecoeur, "What is an American?" in Letters from an American Farmer (N.Y., 1981), 66-86

Week 6: (Oct. 11) THE FOCUS ON RESEARCH

* Storey, Writing History: A Guide for Students, 1-59

Richard Simmons, "Americana in British Books, 1621-1760," in America in European Consciousness, 1493-1750, ed. Karen Ordahl Kupperman (Chapel Hill, 1995), 361-87

We will meet in the library this week.

Week 7: (Oct 18) RACE AND SLAVERY

Abbé Guillaume-Thomas Raynal, excerpt from Philosophical and Political History of the Settlements and Trades of the Europeans in the East and West Indies (1774), Book XI: 48-61

Olaudah Equiano, Equiano's Travels, ed. Paul Edwards (NY, 1967), 1-32

Thomas Paine, "African Slavery in America," in The Portable Enlightenment Reader, ed. Isaac Kramnick (NY, 1995), 645-649

Barnave's defense of slave trade in The West in the Wider World, vol. 2, ed. Richard Lim and David K. Smith (Boston, 2003), 147-150

Week 8: (Oct 25) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

*** 2 PAGE PROPOSAL = description of topic, key primary sources, and central questions, due at your meeting with me.

Week 9: (Nov. 1) WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER

Sample Senior Paper: "From Barbary to France: Processions of Redemption and Early Modern Cultural Identity" (unpublished, used anonymously with student's permission)

* Storey, Writing History: A Guide for Students, 61-86

We will have a visit from a Writing Lab Instructor.

*** BIBLIOGRAPHY of primary and secondary sources due Friday, Nov. 4.

Week 10: (Nov 8) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

*** OUTLINE due at your meeting with me.

Week 11: (Nov 15) GROUP MEETING: PRESENTATION OF TOPICS & SOURCES

Week 12: (Nov 22) EXCHANGE OF DRAFTS

*** Rough drafts due at class.

Week 13: (Nov 29) DISCUSSION OF ROUGH DRAFTS

Week 14: (Dec. 6) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Week 15: (Dec 13) FINAL PRESENTATIONS

*** Final Paper due on Dec. 13