

**SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**HISTORY 644 Journeys to the New World: Discovery, Exploration and Science**

Prof. Julyana Peard

Fall 2006: Th. 16.10 – 18.55

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This is an upper division undergraduate seminar focusing on writing about Latin America by discoverers, scientists and other travelers (including women) from 1492 to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The emphasis will be on diverse and evolving images of the New World, and the historical contexts of the changing perceptions of Latin America. We will also read theoretical literature on travel and imperialism. This course is for students from all areas of history, not only Latin America, as it is really about ‘bridging’ different worlds.

- Christopher Columbus, *The Four Voyages* (Penguin Classics)
- Bernal Díaz del Castillo, *The Conquest of New Spain* (Penguin Classics)
- Bartolomé de las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (Penguin Classics)
- Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca, *Castaways* (UC Press)
- Alexander Humboldt, *Personal Narrative of a Journey to the Equinoctial Regions* (Penguin Classics)
- Nancy Leys Stepan, *Picturing Tropical Nature*
- José Martí, *Selected Writings*

-A reader: Password given in class

1. **Natalie Zemon Davis**, “Maria Sibylla Merian: Metamorphosis,” in Davis, *Women on the Margins: Three Seventeenth-Century Lives* (Harvard UP, 1995);
2. **Louis Godin** des Odonais, Letter to M. de la Condamine, July 1773, appended to La Condamine’s *Abridged Narrative* in John Pinkerton, ed., *Voyages and Travels in all Parts of the World*, London, Longman et. al., vol 14, pp. 259-69, 1813
3. **Jean Franco**, “A Not So Romantic Journey: British Travelers to South America, 1810-1828,” in M.L. Pratt and Kathleen Newman, eds., *Critical Passions: Selected Essays* (1999)
4. **Caroline B. Brettell**, “Introduction: Travel Literature, Ethnography, and Ethnohistory,” in *Ethnohistory* 33, 2 (1986), 127-138
5. **Jorge Cañizares**, article in *American Historical Review*, Vol. 104, No. 1 (Feb 1999), 33-65.
6. **John H. Eliot**, Chapter 1 from *The Old World and the New* (1970)

**Course requirements:**

-weekly writing assignments	30%
-presentation and paper	50%
-participation in class discussion	20%

The **weekly writing assignments** must be **not more than ONE page**, typed, double-spaced and proofread. Due at the start of each class. I drop the two lowest grades. Late papers will be penalized.

The **term paper presentations** will start in November, the actual date will depend on the number of students. In the last four weeks of class there will be only class presentations. If you want to incorporate critiques or issues raised in the discussion of your paper, you may hand it in one week later. For those presenting in the final class session, the last day to hand in is Tuesday, December 19. The paper should be 12-15 pages excluding bibliography.

**Participation** means an **active role** in class discussions, familiarity with the week’s reading. Each of you should **bring to class questions** that occurred to you while reading. We will incorporate them into the class discussion.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### 1. Aug 31: Introduction

#### Useful readings for the course:

Jorge Cañizares, *How to Write the History of the New World*

John H. Elliott, *The Old World and the New* (1970)

Anthony Pagden, *European Encounters with the New World: From Renaissance to Romanticisms* (1993)

Mary Louise Pratt, *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation* (1992)

Ingrid E. Fey and Karen Racine, eds., *Strange Pilgrimages: Exile, Travel, and National Identity in Latin America, 1800-1990s* (2000)

Grewal, Inderpal, *Home and harem: nation, gender, empire, and the cultures of travel* (1996)

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### 2. Sept 7: Some approaches to travel literature

All required readings are in the electronic reserve reader (password: marti)

**Jean Franco**, "A Not So Romantic Journey: British Travelers to South America, 1810-1828," in M.L. Pratt and Kathleen Newman, eds., *Critical Passions: Selected Essays* (1999);

4. **Caroline B. Brettell**, "Introduction: Travel Literature, Ethnography, and Ethnohistory," in *Ethnohistory* 33, 2 (1986), 127-138;

5. **Jorge Cañizares**, article in AHR

6. **John H. Eliot**, Selection from *The Old World and the New* (1970)

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### 3. Sept 14: Discoverers: The voyage of Columbus

Cristopher Columbus, *The Four Voyages*

#### To go further:

Margarita Zamora, *Reading Columbus* (1993)

Samuel H. Morison, *Admiral of the Ocean Sea* (1942)

Felipe Fernández-Armesto, *Columbus* (1991)

Paolo Emilio Taviani, *Christopher Columbus: The grand Design* (1985)

William D. and Carla Rahn Phillips, *The Worlds of Cristopher Columbus*

J.H. Parry, *The Age of Reconnaissance* (1963)

Zvi Dor-Ner, *Columbus and the Age of Discovery* (1991)

Stephen Greenblatt, *Marvelous Possessions: The Wonder of the New World*

-----, ed., *New World Encounters*.

Patricia Seed, *Ceremonies of Possession in Europe's Conquest of the New World, 1492-1640*.

Irving Rouse, *The Tainos: Rise and decline of the people who greeted Columbus* (1992)

Peter Hulme, *Colonial Encounters: Europe and the native Caribbean 1492-1797*

Antonello Gerbi, *Nature in the New World: From Columbus to Oviedo* (1985)

Gordon M. Sayre, *Les Sauvages Américains: Representations of Native Americans in French and English Colonial Literature*

*The Cambridge History of Latin America* has many good essays in its volumes.

See also titles in section below, and much, much more.

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### 4. Sept 21: Conquerors

Bernal Díaz del Castillo, *The Conquest of New Spain*

#### To go further:

Hernán Cortes, *Letters from Mexico*

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John Elliott, *The Old World and the New* (1970)

Anthony Pagden, *The Fall of Natural Man: The American Indian and the Origins of Comparative Ethnology*.

-----, *European Encounters with the New World: From Renaissance to Romanticism*.

Patricia Seed, "Are These not Also Men?: The Indian's Humanity and Capacity for Spanish Civilization," *JLAS*, 25,3, (Oct 1993), 630-52.

Inga Clendinnen, "Fierce and Unnatural Cruelty....," in ed. Stephen Greenblatt, *New World Encounters*  
D.A. Brading, *The First America, 1492-1867* (1991)

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### **5. Sept 28: Priests**

Bartolomé de las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*

**\*\*\*\*\*Hand in your paper topics, the historical problem you will focus on in your paper, and annotated bibliographies\*\*\*\*\***

To go further:

Lewis Hanke, *The Spanish Struggle for Justice in the Conquest of America* (1949)

Juan Friede and Benjamin Keen, eds., *Bartolomé de las Casas in History* (1971)

Lewis Hanke, *All Mankind is One: A study of the Disputation.....* (1974)

James Muldoon, *Canon Law, the Expansion of Europe, and World Order*. (1998)

J.H. Elliot, *Spain and its World*.

Margaret Hodgen, *Early Anthropology in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*.

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### **6. Oct 5: Captives**

Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca, *Castaways*

To go further:

See notes and bibliography in *Castaways*.

Francis Barker, Peter Hulme, and Margaret Iversen, eds., *Cannibalism and the Colonial World*.

Neil Whitehead, "Hans Staden & the Cultural Politics of Cannibalism," *HAHR*, 80, 4 (Nov 2000), 721-52.

Henri Baudet, *Paradise on Earth: Some Thoughts on Non-European Man*.

Rolena Adorno, "Peaceful Conquest and the Law in the *Relación* (Account) of Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca," in *Coded Encounters: Writing, Gender, and Ethnicity in Colonial Latin America* Francisco Javier Cevallos-Candau et. al. eds., Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts, 1994, 75-86

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### **7. Oct 12: Women travelers**

Louis Godin des Odonais, Letter to M. de la Condamine, July 1773, appended to La Condamine's *Abridged Narrative* in John Pinkerton, ed., *Voyages and Travels in all Parts of the World*, London, Longman et. Al., vol 14, pp. 259-69, 1813 (**Reader**)

Natalie Zemon Davis, "Maria Sibylla Merian: Metamorphosis," in Davis, *Women on the Margins: Three Seventeenth-Century Lives* (**Reader**)

To go further:

Kurt Wettengl, ed., *Maria Sibylla Merian, 1647-1717: Artist and Naturalist* (1998)

Ruth Stiff, *Margaret Mee: Return to the Amazon* (1996)

Victor Wolfgang Von Hagen, *South America Called Them: Explorations of the Great Naturalists* (1945)

Celia Wakefield, *Searching for Isabel Godin*

Anthony Smith, *The Lady of the Amazon*

June Hahner, ed., *Women through Women's Eyes: Latin American Women in Nineteenth-Century Travel Accounts* (1998)

----- ed., *A Parisian in Brazil: The Travel Account of a Frenchwoman in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro* (2001)

Marjorie Agosin & Julie H. Levison, *Magical Sites: Women Travelers in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Latin America*

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**8. Oct 17: There will be no formal class. Instead, you must schedule a time to discuss drafts of your papers with me.**

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**9. Oct 26: Scientists**

Alexander Humboldt, *Personal Narrative of a Journey to the Equinoctial Regions*

To go further:

R.A. McNeil and M.D. Dean, *Europeans in Latin America: Humboldt to Hudson* (1980)

Mary Louise Pratt, *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation* (1992)

Antonio Gerbi, *The Dispute of the Modern World* (1955)

David Brading, *The First America* (1991)

Jorge Cañizares, *How to Write History of the New World*

There is a huge literature on Humboldt.

See too Darwin who like many was influenced by H.

Janet Browne, *Charles Darwin: Voyaging* (1995)

-----, *Charles Darwin: The Power of Place* (2002)

-----, *Charles Darwin: A Biography* (1996)

Peter Nichols, *Evolution's Captain*

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**10. Nov 2: Patriots**

José Martí, *Selected Writings*

**Student presentation may start** (depending on numbers)

To go further:

*Radical History Review*, Issue 89 (see forum on Martí)

Many other readings

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**11. Nov 9: Interpreting tropical traveling**

Nancy Leys Stepan, *Picturing Tropical Nature*

**Student presentation**

To go further:

Elizabeth Higgins Gladfelter, *Agassiz' Legacy: Scientists' Reflections on the Value of Field Experience* (2002)

Grewal, Inderpal, *Home and harem: nation, gender, empire, and the cultures of travel* (1996)

Mary Louise Pratt, *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation* (1992)

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**Nov 16: Student presentations**

**Thanksgiving Break November 20-25**

**Nov 30: Student presentations; Dec 7: Student presentations; Dec 14: Student presentations**