

Innovative Teaching – Course Redesign project (ITCR)

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HIST 173: Old World and New World Encounters

This course examines the first wave of European expansion, from 1400-1750, through the prism of cultural and religious interactions. It explores how Europeans, Africans, and Indians understood each other during European exploration, conquest, and colonization of the "New World".

Brief description of the course and its place in the curriculum

European expansion during the early modern period revolutionized the world by connecting the continents on either side of the Atlantic. The resulting encounter changed Europe, Africa, and the Americas forever. In this upper division course, students delve into the ways that Europeans and non-Europeans made sense of each other and each other's perspectives, values and experiences, throughout the exploration and colonization of the "New World."

Summary of course re-design activities

I will create short video lectures that introduce students to the primary themes of the class, including: violence and co-existence in everyday life; construction of race, gender and ethnicity; slavery and other forms of labor; trans-Atlantic migration, both voluntary and forced; and European and indigenous anthropologies of the "other."

These segments will give students the opportunity to listen to course content multiple times, and to reflect on the material before coming to class. Students will take short quizzes or write short essays after these segments.

In-class time will be devoted to reading and analyzing primary source documents.

In lieu of a traditional final exam, students will present a short video based on their own research, and lead a class discussion of the most significant primary source.



*"There are three classes of people:
those who see. Those who see when
they are shown. Those who do not
see."*

Leonardo da Vinci

