

**History 362**  
**The Age of Conquest**  
**Gustavus Adolphus College**  
**T 1:30 – 4:20**  
**SSC 212**

**Sujay Rao**  
**Social Science Center 216**  
**Office Hrs: MWF 1:30 – 2:30**  
**Telephone: x7434**  
**Email: srao@gustavus.edu**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS – Spring 2007**

**Overview:** This course will focus on the initial contacts between Europeans, Africans, and indigenous Americans, mainly during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. During this period, groups of Europeans conquered the enormous empires of the Aztecs and Incas. Other Europeans helped launch the Atlantic slave trade. Still other groups explored regions such as Brazil and North America. The course will consider how Europeans came to control large portions of the Americas and Africa and also examine the limits of Europeans' power during this period.

**Assignments:**

- Attendance and informed participation, 25%
- Paper #1 (due Thursday, March 1), 15%
- Source Report Assignment (due Thursday, March 22), 10%
- Paper #2 (due Thursday, April 12), 15%
- Oral Presentation (April 24 – May 8), 10%
- Research Paper (draft due May 10, final version due on May 22), 25%

**Readings:** The following books are available for purchase at the Book Mark:

- Bernal Díaz, *The Conquest of New Spain* (required)

**Grading Policies and Late Work:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted. You may *request* an extension for *one* of the 5-page papers provided that you make the request at least one week before the due date. Any other late work will be penalized at the rate of 1/6 of a letter grade per day (for example, an A- paper turned in two days late would receive a B+) with exceptions for documented illnesses and other emergencies. If you cannot avoid turning an assignment in late, please talk to Sujay *in advance*.

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance at all meetings is mandatory and will be recorded. Please make every effort to ensure that other activities do not interfere with regular attendance. If an absence is absolutely unavoidable, please talk to Sujay *in advance*. While one unexcused absence *might* be overlooked, *a second will lead to an automatic reduction of your overall course grade*. Participation is not entirely voluntary – at times students will be called on to contribute to discussions.

**Week 1: Tuesday, February 6 – Welcome to History 362 – The Age of Conquest**

- Handout: Syllabus
- Handout: Study Questions for Bernal Díaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*
- Handout: Paper #1

**Week 2: Tuesday, February 13 – Spaniards and Aztecs**

- Reading due: Michael D. Coe, “The Aztecs in 1519,” pp. 163-196 (on e-reserve).
- Reading due: Bernal Díaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*, pp. 15-188.
- Handout: The Paper Proposal

**Week 3: Tuesday, February 20 – The Conquest of New Spain**

- Reading due: Díaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*, pp. 189-413.

**Week 4: Tuesday, February 27 – The Aftermath of Conquest in New Spain**

- Reading due: Stuart Schwartz, *Victors and Vanquished*, “Lienzo de Tlaxcala,” pp. 123-126, “Codex Mendoza,” pp. 221-225, “The Shape of the Land,” pp. 226-229, and “Letter to King Philip II,” pp. 233-240 (on e-reserve).
- Reading due: Kenneth Mills and William B. Taylor, *Colonial Spanish America*, “The Lords and Holy Men of Tenochtitlan Reply to the Franciscans,” pp. 19-22 and “Orders Given to ‘the Twelve’,” pp. 46-51 (on e-reserve).
- Reading due: Motolinía, *History of the Indians of New Spain*, Chapter IV, pp. 51-57 (on e-reserve).
- Reading due: Fray Diego Durán, *Book of the Gods and Rites and The Ancient Calendar*, pp. 51-56 and 383-387 (on e-reserve).
- **Paper #1 due on Thursday, March 1**

**Week 5: Tuesday, March 6 – The Andes**

- Reading due: Kenneth Andrien, *Andean Worlds: Indigenous History, Culture, and Consciousness Under Spanish Rule, 1532-1825*, Chapters 4-6, pp. 73-191 (on e-reserve).
- Handout: The Source Report
- **Paper Proposal due**

**Week 6: Tuesday, March 13 – Mestizo Identity**

- Reading due: Serge Gruzinski, *The Mestizo Mind: The Intellectual Dynamics of Colonization and Hybridization*, Chapters 3-8, pp. 33-132 (on e-reserve).
- Handout: Paper #2

**Week 7: Tuesday, March 20 – Islam and Africa: An Overview**

- Reading due: J. D. Fage, *A History of Africa*, Part 2, pp. 141-212 (on e-reserve).
- **Source Report due on Thursday, March 22**

**Week 8: Tuesday, March 27 – Europe and Africa**

- Reading due: Reading due: John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Part I “Africans in Africa,” pp. 13-125 (on e-reserve).
- Reading due: “The Voyages of Cadamosto,” pp. 31-33 and 40-41 and “Richard Eden’s Account of John Lok’s Voyage to Mina, 1554-1555,” pp. 338-346 (on e-reserve).

**SPRING BREAK**

**Week 9: Tuesday, April 10 – Slavery**

- Reading due: Winthrop D. Jordan, *White Over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro, 1550-1812*, Part One “Genesis, 1550-1700,” pp. 3-98 (on e-reserve).
- Reading due: “Brother Luis Brandaon to Father Sandoval (1610),” p. 19; “John Barbot’s Description of Guinea,” pp. 22-26; “Voyage of the Hannibal,” pp. 27-30; “Captain Bernard Ladman to the Royal African Company,” p. 31; “Voyage of John Atkins to Guinea,” pp. 33-40; “Francis Moore’s Travels in Africa,” pp. 47-50 (on e-reserve).
- Handout: The Oral Presentation
- **Paper #2 due on Thursday, April 12**

**Week 10: Tuesday, April 17 – The Big Picture**

- Reading due: Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, Part Two “The Rise and Spread of Food Production,” pp. 83-191 and Chapter 18, pp. 354-375 (on e-reserve).

**Week 11: Tuesday, April 24 – Oral Presentations**

**Week 12: Tuesday, May 1 – Oral Presentations**

**Week 13: Tuesday, May 8 – Oral Presentations**

- **Draft of Research Paper due on Thursday, May 10 with self-evaluation form**

**Week 14: Tuesday, May 15 – Peer Review of Research Papers**

**The final version of the Research Paper will be due by 5PM on Tuesday, May 22, which is the last day of the exam period.**

## ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Every Gustavus Adolphus College student now agrees to abide by the academic honesty policy and honor code as a condition for enrollment. The honesty policy stipulates:

In all academic exercises, examinations, presentations, speeches, papers, and reports, students shall submit their own work. Footnotes or some other acceptable form of citation must accompany any use of another's words or ideas. Students are especially cautioned that quoting from or paraphrasing from electronic sources without proper citation is as serious a violation as copying from a book or other printed source.

In addition, the policy states "a student may not submit work that is substantially the same in two courses without first gaining permission of both instructors if the courses are taken concurrently, or permission of the current instructor, if the work had been submitted in a previous semester."

In this course, any violation of the academic honesty policy will carry the following penalty: failure of the assignment and, at the discretion of Dr. Rao, failure of the course. Students who dispute an allegation of academic dishonesty may request a hearing before a joint student/faculty honor board.

As your instructor I will attempt to clearly define the level of authorized aid appropriate to a particular assignment. However, you are responsible to ask questions about any reasonable doubt you have regarding my definition of authorized aid.

Under the honor code policy, the proctoring of exams is at the discretion of the instructor. I do intend to proctor exams in this course.

Finally, an integral part of the honor code is non-tolerance of violations. Under our code students are not expected to police others' actions. Rather, you agree to report violations of which you become aware. Failure to do so will constitute an honor code violation in this class.