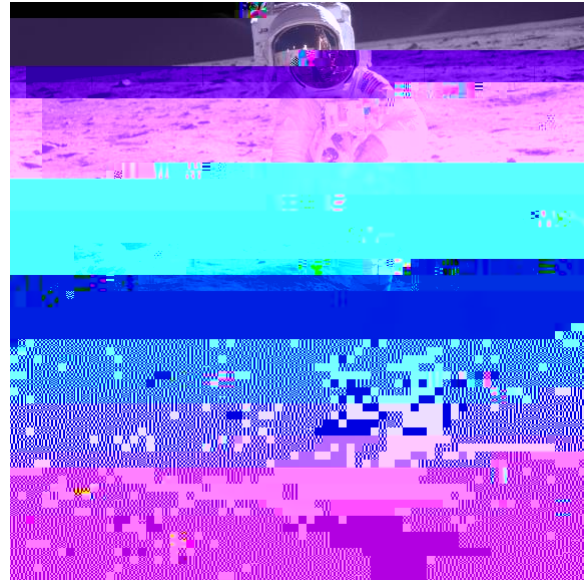


HISTORY 313W/413
The History of Exploration
Spring 2021
Wednesdays 2:00-4:40



The land on which the University of Rochester River Campus sits is within the historic homeland of the Seneca Nation, a member of the Haudenosaunee Six Nations Confederacy. It is covered by the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua, between the United States Government and the Six Nations Confederacy, which affirmed Haudenosaunee land rights and sovereignty in the State of New York. Today, this region is still the home to the Haudenosaunee people, and we are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and share ideas in this territory.

This upper-level research seminar explores select episodes in the history of global exploration from ancient times to the present. Exploration category that encompasses a wide range of human experiences and shares its history with such closely related things as travel, adventure, pilgrimage, and the like. Part of our purpose is to address these distinctions and arrive at some historical understanding of what exploration is and what it is not. Exploration by definition takes us out of the realm of ordinary, day-to-day experience; it is something that attracts unusual people and requires extraordinary effort. At the same time, however, it is inextricably linked to history and reflects the social and cultural assumptions of each period from which it emerges. We are after these links and reflections. Our purpose is to situate the seemingly arcane activity of exploration fully in historical context and arrive at some understanding of how it has therefore changed over time.

Obviously, give so vast a subject as this we cannot aspire to anything like comprehensiveness. The assigned readings constitute a sampler meant to encourage deeper independent engagement with the subject. To this end, the main requirement of the seminar is a primary research paper design. More about that in due course.

Instructor: Stewart Weaver, Department of History. Rush Rhees 368. 275-9348.
stewart.weaver@rochester.edu. Office Hours: by appointment.

Books: The following books are required and available for purchase at the new Barnes and Noble bookstore. You may also order them on line if you prefer, but **please note the**
 . I would like everyone to be working with the same text.

Stewart Weaver, *Exploration: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford Univ. Press)
 Marco Polo, *Travels* (Penguin Classics)
 Christopher Columbus, *The Four Voyages* (Penguin Classics)
 Alexander von Humboldt, *Personal Narrative* (Penguin Classics)
 Apsley Cherry-Gerrard, *The Worst Journey in the World* (1922)

Note that there will be many more reading assignments on Blackboard or on line as the syllabus indicates. Moreover, I reserve the right to improvise and adjust reading assignments as needed as the semester proceeds. The syllabus remains a work in progress.

Course Requirements:

1. consistent reading, attendance, and class participation (30%)
2. 8 (out of a possible 10) short critical responses to the assigned reading, due on the day of discussion (20%)
3. 15-20 page (HIS 326W) or 20-25 page (HIS 426) final research paper, due no later than Friday, May 7

The College's credit hour policy on undergraduate courses is to award 4 credit hours for courses that meet for the equivalent of 3 periods of 50 minutes each week. Students enrolled in HIS 229/W

Class Schedule

NB: This is a tentative schedule of class meetings and reading assignments as of the start of the semester. I reserve the right to make adjustments and changes as needed as we go along

Class Zoom Link: <https://rochester.zoom.us/j/5852759348>

February 3: Introduction and Orientation

February 10: What is Exploration?

* Stewart Weaver, *Exploration: A Very Short Introduction*, ch. 1

* [What is Exploration](#) [The Birth of Exploration](#)
[Time to Eat the Dogs](#)

February 17: East Meets West: Medieval Exploration and Travel

* Marco Polo, *The Travels* (1298), translated by R. E. Latham (Penguin Classics 1958) selections TBA (Blackboard)

* *The Travels of Ibn Battutah* (ca. 1354), ed. Tim Mackintosh-Smith (Macmillan 2003) selections TBA (Blackboard)

* Weaver, *Exploration*, ch. 3

February 24: The Norse Atlantic Saga

* *The Vinland Sagas*--selections TBA (Blackboard)

* Secondary Text TBA

* Weaver, *Exploration*, ch. 2

March 3: College Study Break: No Class

March 10:

* Christopher Columbus, *Four Voyages*--selections TBA

* Stephen Greenblatt, *Marvelous Possessions: The Wonder of the New World* (1991), pp. 52-85 (Blackboard)

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*Science**Exploration and**Technology and Culture* 51 (210): 425-43.* Weaver, *Exploration*

May 5: In-class research presentations

Friday, May 7: Research Papers Due