Spring 2014

**HIST 585-004: Special Topics in History:**

**Topic:** Gender/Race/Imperialism: N.Amer or Gender, Race, and Imperialism in North America

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<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Day(s)</th>
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<th>Maximum Enrollment</th>
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<td>Peterson</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>4:00 – 7:00 pm</td>
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**Semester Description:**

Examines the relationship between imperialism and gender and race formations in North America, from early European invasion through the Civil War.

This course looks at how colonial constructions of gender and race impacted human experiences in early North America, from early European invasion through the Civil War. Over the course of the semester, we address the existence of multiple gender formations between and among people of American Indian, European, and African descent; the colonial regulation of “male” and “female” (hetero)sexualities; and how it was that gender became inseparable from discourses concerning race, slavery, citizenship, and class. At the same time, we pay particular attention to the diverse colonial experiences of women. This is not to conflate the study of “gender” with the history of women. Rather, given that most studies of North American history tend to privilege the stories of men, we explore how colonialism differentially shaped what it was to be designated as “female,” depending upon nation, phenotype, religion, and location. Such an approach allows us to foreground race and gender formations – including ideas about masculinity – as situated practices, ones that intersected with histories of slavery, sex, community, labor, family, religion, and property.

**Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:**


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Grading:
- Students are expected to come to each and every class prepared to discuss the assigned texts.
- Assignments include:
  - one short book review essay, and
  - a longer research essay or literature review essay.