

Puritans and Indians

Transcultural Encounters & the Making of the Frontier in Colonial America

Lecturer: PD Dr. Stefan L. Brandt

Room and time: AR-K 307/1, Tuesdays 14-16

Course type: Hauptseminar

Modules: Berufskolleg: M 6.3: Literatur und Kultur: Spezialisierung / Autoren(gruppen); Gymnasium: M 7.4: Literatur und Kultur: Spezialisierung / Autoren(gruppen); Master: M 2.2 Epochen der Literatur-, Kultur- und Mediengeschichte: Mittelalter, frühe Neuzeit, 17. Jahrhundert

First session: April 13, 2010

Course description: This class examines cultural encounters between the early pioneers and the 'Indians' on American soil. How were such interactions utilized in literature and the visual arts to negotiate the problems and opportunities of colonial experience? Symbolic constructions like that of an 'uncivilized' territory beyond the frontier inhabited by heathen tribes were instrumental in endowing the settlers with a firm sense of religious and cultural identity. The dominant self-image of puritan America was marked by a number of myths and legends that helped shape social and cultural practice in the colonies. What role did the narrative of Pocahontas have in the constitution of early America? In what way did the clash of world views and spiritual backgrounds influence the rhetorical as well as the political shaping of colonial life? How did Europeans respond to the New World in words and images? To what degree did the process of colonialization change the indigenous 'old world'? What function did the genre of captivity narratives assume? Why did some captives decide to remain in Indian captivity while others modeled native Americans into epitomes of Satan? We will discuss important foundational texts of colonial America, especially sermons, jeremiads, and spiritual autobiographies as well as documents crafted by Native Americans. Texts will include John Smith's writings on Pocahontas, Jean de Brébeuf's missionary accounts in New France as well as Mary Rowlandson's tales of her captivity. We will also look at a few films, such as *Black Robe* and *New World*.

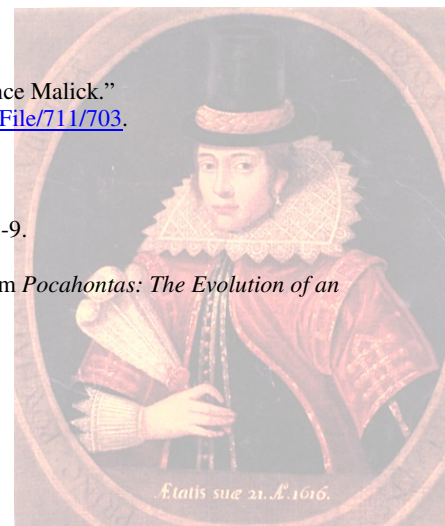
Grading: For 5 or 7 CP: regular attendance, participation in discussions, at least nine entries in the discussion forum (1/3), oral presentation as part of an expert group (1/3), and final paper (8-10/ 15-17 pages) (1/3). For 2 CP: attendance, participation in discussions, at least seven entries in the discussion forum (50%), oral presentation as part of an expert group (50%).

Deadline for Final Papers: Friday, August 31 (Tuesday), 2010. Note: There is no extension of this deadline. Please throw papers into my box (2nd floor of the AR-H building) or send them in postal form. Do not (!) send papers via email.

Syllabus

- 13 April** **Introduction: Puritan-Indian Encounters and the Making of 'America'**
Basic texts:
Charles M. Segal & David C. Stineback, "For the Sake of Our Religion." In: *Puritans, Indians, and Manifest Destiny* (1977), pp. 25-39.¹
Perry Miller, from *Errand into the Wilderness* (1956), pp. 1-15.
Sacvan Bercovitch, "Puritanism and the Self." In: *The Puritan Origins of the American Self* (1975), pp. 1-34.
- 20 April** **Mythologies of Early Encounters between Pioneers and Native Americans**
Main film (required):
The New World (dir. Terrence Malick, 2005).
Additional text (optional):
E. Repphuhn, "Look Out Through My Eyes: The Enchantments of Terrence Malick."
In: <http://escholarship.usyd.edu.au/journals/index.php/SSR/article/viewFile/711/703>.
- 27 April** **Pocahontas – The Construction of a (Trans-)Cultural Myth**
Main text (required):
Captain John Smith, from *The Generall Historie of Virginia* (1624), pp. 1-9.
Additional text (optional):
Robert S. Tilton, "John Gadsby Chapman's *Baptism of Pocahontas*." From *Pocahontas: The Evolution of an American Narrative* (1994), pp. 93-144.

¹ All texts for this course are available on the BSCW server. <http://bscw.avmz.uni-siegen.de/>



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- 04 May** **“Man Being a Mortall God” – Narratives of a “Divine Empire” on the Soil of the Plantations**
 Main text (required):
 Samuel Purchas, from *A Discourse on Virginia* (1625), pp. 22-33.
 Additional text (optional):
 A. Carden, “The Biblical Basis of the Puritan Way.” In: *Puritan Christianity in America* (1990), pp. 33-46.
- 11 May** **Film screening – White Settlement and the Rhetoric of Conversion**
Black Robe (dir. Bruce Beresford, CAN 1991).
- 18 May** **Evangelizing the Heathens – Christianity as a Beacon against ‘Barbarism’**
 Main text (required):
 Jean de Brébeuf, “On the Conversion, Baptism, and Happy Death of Some Hurons” (1636), pp. 1-13.
 Additional text (optional):
 “Attempts to Puritanize the Heathen.” In: *The Puritan Tradition in America, 1620-1730* (1972), pp. 261-271.
- 25 May** **Pentecost Holiday (Pfingsten)**
Relax and enjoy!
- 01 June** **The Colonial Community as a City upon a Hill – John Winthrop’s Call for a “Covenant with God”**
 Main text (required):
 Governor John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity.” Sermon held aboard the Arbella (1630), pp. 1-9.
 Additional text (optional):
 Michael Warner, “New English Sodom.” *American Literature* 64.1 (March 1992), pp. 19-47.
- 08 June** **Sermons of a Christian Utopia – John Cotton’s “True Holy Commonwealth”**
 Main text (required):
 John Cotton, In: *God’s Promise to His Plantations* (1630), pp. 58-77.
 Additional text (optional):
 E. Elliott, “The Dream of a Christian Utopia.” *The Cambridge History of American Literature* (1994), pp. 183-204.
- 15 June** **Waging War against the Indians – John Underhill’s Account of the Pequot War (1636-37)**
 Main text (required):
 John Underhill, “Newes from America: A New and Experimental Discoverie of New England” (1638), pp. 49-86.
 Additional text (optional):
 R.D. Karr, “Why Should You Be So Furious? The Violence of the Pequot War.” *The Journal of American History* (December 1998), pp. 876-909.
- 22 June** **The Birth of the American Jeremiad – Michael Wigglesworth and the Community in Crisis**
 Main text (required):
 Michael Wigglesworth, “God’s Controversy with New England” (1662), pp. 229-236.
 Additional text (optional):
 Sacvan Bercovitch, “The American Jeremiad” (1978), pp. 80-88.
- 29 June** **The Revival of Piety – Mary Rowlandson’s Spiritual Autobiography**
 Main text (required):
 Mary Rowlandson, “A Narrative of Captivity and Restoration” (1682), pp. 1-19.
 Additional texts (optional):
 Kathryn Zabelle, “Introduction to Women’s Indian Captivity Narratives” (1998).
 Alden T. Vaughan & E.W. Clark, “Cups of Common Calamity: Puritan Captivity Narratives as Literature and History.” In: *Puritans among the Indians* (1981), pp. 1-28.
- 06 July** **Indian Captivity as an Instrument of the Dominant Rhetoric – Cotton Mather’s *Magnalia Christi Americana***
 Main text (required):
 Cotton Mather, “New Assaults from the Indians” & “The Condition of the Captives” (1702), pp. 135-144.
 Additional text (optional):
 Cotton Mather, “A Narrative of Hannah Dustan’s Notable Deliverance from Captivity” (1697), pp. 161-164.
- 13 July** **Conversions to the Christian Religion – The Native American Perspective**
 Main text (required):
 Samson Occom (Mohegan), In: *A Short Narrative of My Life* (1768), pp. 1-7.
 Additional text (optional):
 Samson Occom, “A Sermon Preached at the Execution of Moses Paul, an Indian” (1772), pp. 1-17.
- 20 July** **The Disneyfication of Colonial Experience – Pocahontas goes Hollywood**
 Main film (required):
Pocahontas (prod. by Walt Disney Company, 1995).
 Additional text (optional):
 Kiyomi Kutsuzawa, “Disney’s Pocahontas.” In: *Asian Journal of Women’s Studies* 6.4 (2000), pp. 39-65.
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