

Fall 2016

Tues/Thurs 8:30-9:50

Prof. F. Couvares: Class Chapin 101, Office Chapin 17. Office Hrs: Tues. 2:30-4; Wed. 9:30-11  
Prof. K. Sánchez-Eppler: Class Chapin 204, Office Morgan 106, Office Hrs: Thurs. 10:00 – 1:00

## **Global Valley American Studies 111**

It is often said that one can't understand the global except through a study of the local; and that one can't understand the local except in the context of the global. This course takes those ideas seriously. Drawing on a wide range of primary materials and visits to the sites of many of the topics we study, this course introduces you to American Studies through an exploration of the Connecticut River Valley that stresses both the fascination of detailed local history and the economic, political, social, and cultural networks that tie this place to the world. Topics include interactions between Native peoples and English settlers; changing uses of land and resources; witchcraft trials; the Revolution and Shays rebellion; religious revivalism; abolitionist and other reform movements; the invention of "scenic New England," including Thomas Cole's famous painting of the Oxbow; immigration, industrialization and deindustrialization, especially in the city of Holyoke; educational institutions and innovations; the reach of the "military industrial complex" into local educational institutions; feminist and gay activism; present social equity issues; and of course, Emily Dickinson's poetry.

### **Books**

Susan Stinson, *Spider in a Tree* (Small Beer Press, 2013) ISBN 9781618730695

Emily Dickinson, *Final Harvest*, ed. Thomas Johnson (Back Bay Press, 1964) ISBN 0316184152

Mary Rowlandson, *Sovereignty and Goodness of God*, ed. N. Salisbury (Bedford, 1997) ISBN 0312111517

Mary Doyle Curran, *The Parish and the Hill* (1948) (Feminist Press, 2002) ISBN 155861396X

Elizabeth Aries, *Speaking of Race and Class* (Temple UP, 2012) ISBN 1439909679

**Available at Amherst Books at 8 Main Street in Amherst—support our local bookstores!**

Mary Doyle Curran's *The Parish and the Hill* is currently out-of-print. Used copies may be available through the Option and at Amazon and Barnes and Noble. You can also borrow a copy from the many that Prof. Couvares has in his office.

Cheryl Savageau, *Mother/Land* (Salt Publishing, 2006) ISBN 139781844712694

**This publisher does not sell through US bookstores so you will need to purchase this book online.**

Readings in these books are starred (\*) on the syllabus. All other readings can be accessed on e-reserve through the Moodle main course page. These readings have also been compiled in a **required course reader** that will be available in 102 Morgan Hall. Amherst will assess a charge for copyright fees and an additional printing charge.

### **Course Work**

Work for this course includes, in addition to assigned readings and active class participation, two weekend field-trips, one to Deerfield and another to Holyoke, plus other shorter excursions to nearer sites; short assignments that will allow you to practice a wide range of American Studies interpretive methods (e.g., interpreting landscapes, material culture objects, poems, archival manuscripts, photographs, and the like); a short expository essay early in the course; and a longer, more synthetic final paper that will require some research.

# Global Valley Syllabus

## The Valley

Tuesday, September 6

Introduction: Looking out from Memorial Hill: What do you see?  
Maps of the Valley

Thursday, September 8

### Guest lecture by Tekla Harms: The Geology of the Connecticut River Valley

Edward Hitchcock, "Origin of Valleys," *Report on the Geology, Mineralogy, Botany, and Zoology of Massachusetts* (Amherst, 1833) 131-133; *Elementary Geology* (New York, 1844) 207-8 and 211 and "Ornithichnology--Description of the Foot Marks of Birds on New Red Sandstone in Massachusetts" *The American Journal of Science and Arts* (1836) 307-313 and 3 pages of illustrations.

\*Mary Rowlandson, *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God*, Introduction (1-55)

## Kwinatekw/Connecticut River Valley

Tuesday, September 13

### Class Field Trip to The Great Beaver/Mount Sugarloaf

\*Mary Rowlandson, *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God*, Introduction (1-55)

\*Cheryl Savageau, "First Woman," "No Pity" and "At Sugarloaf" *Mother/Land*, 8, 48, 15  
"The People of the Beaver-tail Hill" audio at:

<http://1704.deerfield.history.museum/voices/stories.do>

Thursday, September 15

\*Mary Rowlandson, *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God*, "Narrative," (63-112)

Tuesday, September 20

John Putnam Demos, "Hard Thoughts and Jealousies," *Entertaining Satan: Witchcraft and the Culture of Early New England* (New York, 1982) 246-74 notes 473-82

Trial transcripts for the trial of Mary Bliss Parson available at

<http://ccbit.cs.umass.edu/parsons/hnmockup/docs/histdocs.html>

Thursday, September 22

Kevin M. Sweeney and Evan Haefeli, "Revisiting *The Redeemed Captive*: New Perspectives on the 1704 Attack on Deerfield" *William and Mary Quarterly* 52 (January, 1995): 3-46

"The Raid on Deerfield: The Many Stories of 1704" at:

<http://1704.deerfield.history.museum>

**Assignment 1 DUE: Bring to class your brief reflection on "The Raid on Deerfield" website**

Sunday, September 25: FIELD TRIP TO DEERFIELD

Readings on the Deerfield Plaques Controversy (*please read before field trip*)

Tuesday, September 27

Alice Nash, "Quanquan's Mortgage of 1663" in Marla R. Miller, ed., *Cultivating a Past: Essays on the History of Hadley, Massachusetts* (U. Mass Press, 2009), 25-42

Lucy Terry, "Bars Fight" (~1746)

Obituary for Lucy Terry Prince

Pinewans, et al, "Petition at No. 2, on the Connecticut River," 1747

*Common Pot* maps: <http://www3.amherst.edu/~lbrooks/>

Thursday, September 29

Philip Ranlet, "The British, the Indians, and Smallpox: What Actually Happened at Fort Pitt in 1763?" *Pennsylvania History* (Summer 2000), 427-441

Correspondence between Colonel Henry Bouquet and General Jeffrey Amherst Edward Wilton Carpenter and Charles Frederick Morehouse, *History of the Town of Amherst Massachusetts* (Amherst, 1896), 68

Petition to name town for Jeffrey Amherst <http://www.digitalamherst.org/items/show/33>

William Apress, "An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man," (1835) *On Our Own Ground*, (Amherst, 1992), 155-161

Jean O'Brien, Introduction, *Firsting and Lasting* (Minnesota 2010), ix-xxiii.

**Assignment 2 DUE Monday October 3: Essay on the import of Deerfield history.**

### **Political and Social Revolutions in the Valley**

Tuesday, October 4

Jonathan Edwards, "Letter to Rev. Dr. Benjamin Coleman, May 30, 1735," and the sermon "Our Weakness, Christ's Strength" preached June 1735 in Northampton, *Works of Jonathan Edwards* (New Haven, 1972-2001), 4: 99-110 & 19: 377-389

Ava Chamberlain, "Bad Books and Bad Boys: The Transformation of Gender in Eighteenth-Century Northampton, Massachusetts," *New England Quarterly* (2002): 179-203.

\*Susan Stinson, *Spider in a Tree*, i-iv

Thursday October 6: Class visit from Susan Stinson

\*Susan Stinson, *Spider in a Tree*, 1-65

FALL BREAK

Thursday October 13

\*Susan Stinson, *Spider in a Tree*, finish.

Between October 12 & 15

**TOUR (individually or in groups) PORTER, PHELPS, HUNTINGTON MUSEUM**

Review the Porter Phelps Huntington House Museum site:

<http://www.pphmuseum.org/sixgenerationsp1.html>

Tuesday, October 18

Gregory H. Nobles, "Revolution in the Neighborhood" *Divisions throughout the Whole* (Cambridge, 1983) 155-87 and notes 238-243

Leonard Richard, "The Revolution that Failed," in *A Place Called Paradise: Culture and Community in Northampton Massachusetts* (Amherst, 2004) [excerpted from *Shays Rebellion: The American Revolution's Final Battle* (Philadelphia, 2002)] 168-196

"The Ballad of Daniel Shays" (1793) 26-29

View primary documents at <http://shaysrebellion.stcc.edu/index.html>

Thursday, October 20

Meet at Archives and Special Collections for an introduction to the Porter Phelps Huntington Papers

Read prior classes' transcriptions of at least five letters at:

<https://www.ats.amherst.edu/globalvalley/exhibits/show/pph-papers>

Christopher Clark, "The Bounds of Independence," *The Roots of Rural Capitalism: Western Massachusetts, 1780-1860* (Ithaca, 1990) 119-191

Tuesday, October 25

Richard Brown, "'Tried, Convicted, and Condemned, in Almost Every Bar-room and Barber's Shop': Anti-Irish Prejudice in the Trial of Dominic Daley and James Halligan, Northampton, Massachusetts, 1806," *New England Quarterly* (2011): 205-233.

Anti-Irish Cartoons (on Moodle)

Thursday, October 27

Nell Painter, excerpt from *Sojourner Truth a Life, a Symbol*, (New York, 1996) 88-112

Constitution and Bylaws of the Northampton Association of Education and Industry at:

[http://radicalequality.emergingamerica.org/sources/#X3703\\_link](http://radicalequality.emergingamerica.org/sources/#X3703_link)

Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I a Woman?"

Stephanie Dunson "'One Night Only!': Blackface Minstrelsy in Nineteenth-Century Northampton Massachusetts," *Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife Annual Proceedings* (2003), 153-164

**Assignment 3 DUE Monday October 31: PPH Transcription**

## Artistic Valley

Tuesday, November 1 or Thursday November 3

FIELD TRIP VISIT TO THE EMILY DICKINSON MUSEUM.

One section each day in class to discuss poems: the other at the ED museum.

\**Final Harvest*: Thomas Johnson, “The Vision and Veto of Emily Dickinson” vii-xiv;

\*Poems: 51 Blazing in Gold and quenching in purple; 63 Hope is the thing with feathers; 66 There is a certain Slant of light; 78 I felt a Funeral in my Brain; 95 The Soul selects her own Society; 122 After great pain, a formal feeling comes; 126 I dreaded that first Robin, so; 140 The Angle of a Landscape; 163 ‘Twas like a Maelstrom; 176 This was a Poet—It is That; 184 I heard a Fly buzz—when I died; 243 I like to see it lap the Miles; 270 I dwell in Possibility; 307 My Life has stood – a Loaded Gun; 331 A Light exists in Spring; 427 Tell all the Truth, but tell it Slant

View manuscripts of these poems at <http://www.edickinson.org/>

Tuesday November 8

### MEET AT the Mead Art Museum

Susan Danly, “Mount Holyoke: ‘The Grandest Cultivated View in the World,’”

*Changing Prospects the View from Mount Holyoke* (Ithaca, 2002) 13-29

Sylvia Plath, “Above the Oxbow” and “In Midas Country,” *The Complete Poems of Sylvia Plath*

## Industrial Valley

Thursday, November 10: Lecture by Frank Couvares

“Immigration, Industrialization and Deindustrialization in Holyoke, Massachusetts”

William F. Hartford, “Unions, Labor Markets, and Deindustrialization” and  
“Conclusion,” *Working People of Holyoke: Class and Ethnicity in a  
Massachusetts Mill Town, 1850-1960* (New Brunswick, 1990), 183-216 and  
253-260

Ramon Borges-Mendez, “The Use of Latino Immigrant Labor in Massachusetts  
Manufacturing: Evidence from Lowell, Lawrence, and Holyoke,” from E.  
Melendez and M. Uriarte, eds., *Latino Poverty and Economic Development in  
Massachusetts* (Amherst 1993), 104-123.

**Assignment 4 DUE Friday November 11:** close observation of a painting or a poem

Sunday, November 13 FIELD TRIP TO HOLYOKE, noon-5PM

Tuesday, November 15

Mary Doyle Curran, *The Parish and the Hill* (to p. 115)

Thursday, November 17

Curran, *The Parish and the Hill*, finish.

## THANKSGIVING BREAK

### Education Valley

Tuesday, November 29

David Allmendinger, Jr. "Part III: Poverty's Toll on Student Life," *Paupers and Scholars: The Transformation of Student Life in Nineteenth-Century New England* (New York, 1975), 79-126

### Assignment 5: Turn in Connecticut Valley Explorations Projects by November 30

Thursday, December 1

Helen L. Horowitz, "Smith College and Changing Conceptions of Educated Women" *Five Colleges, Five Histories* (1992) in *A Place Called Paradise*, 403-18

Barry Werth, "The Scarlet Professor" *New Yorker*, (October 5, 1998): 56-67

Annotated Laws of Massachusetts: Obscene Material/Acts Unnatural and Lascivious Acts.

Film: "The Great Pink Scare"

Tuesday, December 6

James Patrick Brown, "The Disobedience of John William Ward: Myth, Symbol, and Political Praxis in the Vietnam Era" *American Studies* (Summer 2006), 5-22

Thursday, December 10: Class visit from Sam Lovejoy

Robert Surbrug, Jr. "Sam Lovejoy and the Campaign against the Montague Twin Nuclear Power Station, 1974," *Beyond Vietnam: The Politics of Protest in Massachusetts 1974-1990* (Amherst, 2009), 20-53

Film: "Lovejoy's Nuclear War"

Tuesday, December 13

\*Elizabeth Aries, *Speaking of Race and Class*

**Final Assignment due December 16 at noon**

