TOPICS AND SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS OF RELIABLE QUALITY

1. Introduction: Why This Course?

General Reading with Many Interesting Pieces of Information:

The Concepts of Western and Nonwestern

Suggested readings about the battle of Thermopylae (Thermopylae means "hot gates"):


3. Racism—the Genetic Version of Ethnocentrism and Why Anthropologists Reject It


4. Indian Silver and Gold on the World Market: How Native Americans Fueled the Modern Economy

A general overview of Native American contributions paralleling much of Weatherford’s book is:


**2012 Update**

Read about the current conditions in the Cerro Rico mine in the *Latin American Herald Tribune* of 3 February 2012. Thanks to Gineen Lee Brady, a class student in Spring 2012, for locating this interesting source:

[http://www.laht.com/article.asp?CategoryId=14919&ArticleId=343999](http://www.laht.com/article.asp?CategoryId=14919&ArticleId=343999)

Mann, Charles C. 2011. *1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created*. New York: Random House. Additional historical details on topics 4 through 9 here. Includes Potosí, gold and silver from the New World, malaria, the potato and more. Mann bases his account of life in Potosí on:

5. Indian Contributions to Industrial Development

6. The Foods Native Americans Gave Us

   **2011 update:**
   http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/17/magazine/mag-17Sugar-t.html?_r=3&ref=sugar

7. The Columbian Exchange

8. Farming Technology from the Indians
   Thornton, Russell. 1987. *American Indian Holocaust and Survival: A Population History Since 1492*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. Surveys the various estimates of the native population of the New World at the time of European contact. The population figures play an important role in the debate over the extent of Indian forest management described in the Williams book just above.
work of Iroquois agronomist Jane Mt. Pleasant of Cornell University who is studying the environmental and agricultural output consequences of the Iroquois "three sisters" system of corn, beans and squash that preserve soil fertility.

9. Native American Medicines That Still Save Our Lives or Ease Our Pain


10. The Native American Contribution to American Democracy: a Debate


A debate about Grinde’s work and that of colleague Bruce Johansen, appears in the following three sources (thanks to MSU History Prof. Robert Cray for these citations):


11. Peru and the Incas—Mathematical and Scientific Achievements


*Peruvian Weaving—a Continuous Warp for 5,000 years.* [Sprague Library Video #4010]. Archaeologists trace one of the oldest known textile processing traditions.

12. Pre-Inca Achievements; The Lines at Nazca


14. Maya Astronomy and Mathematics

15. Lessons from the Ancestors: The Chimú and Maya Collapses and Their Implications for Today

A two page bibliography is available on Blackboard for this topic.

16. The Non-European Origins of Writing

*Before the Alphabet* [Sprague Library Video #2299]. The history of pre-alphabetic writing as revealed by Sumerian and Egyptian tablets in the Louvre Museum of Paris. The narration is in English.

speaking readers by Ann Macy Roth. A beginner’s guide to Egyptian writing.


17. Egypt: The Geographical and Historical Background

18. Scientific and Architectural, and Mathematical Achievements of Ancient Egypt


19. Egyptian Medicine: Forerunner of Modern Knowledge


20. The Pyramids

21. Egyptian Contributions? The Black Athena Debate


Vol. 2. 1991. The Archaeological and Documentary Evidence. Mostly archaeological data on recent discoveries suggesting Egyptian influences and possibly even conquest of parts of the Eastern Mediterranean in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages. These data form much of the controversy shown in the video in class.
Vol. 3. Planned for sometime in the future, to deal primarily with linguistic data Bernal claims show that many of the non-Indoeuropean words in Greek can be explained from the ancient Egyptian or Canaanite languages. (Hebrew is a dialect of Canaanite.)


Optional Readings on Afrocentrism:


22. VIDEO: The Lost City of Zimbabwe [Sprague Library Video #3034]


23a. African Medical Gifts

Spring 2012 update –

http://dubois.fas.harvard.edu/onesimus-fl-1706-1717-slave-and-medical-pioneer-was-born

Additional information about Onesimus and small pox inoculation. Thanks to Gineen Lee Brady, a student in the Spring 2012 section of the course for alerting us to this link.
24. African Influences on American English


25. African Gifts to Western Music:


26. African Mathematics: Some of the Earliest Known Human Number Systems

27. African Architecture and Design


2011 update:

Carney, Judith A. and Richard Nicholas Rosomoff. 2009. *In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa’s Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World*. Berkeley: University of California Press. More than 2,000 crops originated in Africa and many were brought to the New World by African captives who also brought significant medical and other technical knowledge in how to utilize these plants.

2012 update:

30. Chinese Medicine and Anatomical Knowledge
31. Yoga and Ayurveda: Ancient India’s Modern Medicine
32. Coffee: An Afro-Arabic Gift to the World

If you wish to read my advice about how to study more effectively, or wish to see examples of the kinds of questions typically found on exams for this course, take a look at:


[http://msuweb.montclair.edu/~franker/frankeguidetobettergrades.pdf](http://msuweb.montclair.edu/~franker/frankeguidetobettergrades.pdf)