Caitlin Fitz  
History 410-1  
GENERAL FIELD SEMINAR IN AMERICAN HISTORY  
Day/Time: TH 2:00-4:50  
Office Address: Harris Hall Room 205  
Office Phone: (847) 467-2906  
Email Address: c-fitz@northwestern.edu  
Maximum Enrollment: 15  

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to the history and historiography of early America, from the early colonial period through the early United States. Drawing from classic accounts as well as from more recent scholarship, students will hone their abilities to identify, assess, and develop historical arguments, methodologies, and interpretative frameworks. Topics to be addressed include contact and encounters, slavery, the Atlantic world, empire, religion, labor, and revolutionary and founding politics.  

AREA OF CONCENTRATION: Americas  

TEACHING METHOD: Seminar  

EVALUATION METHOD: Participation and writing assignments  

GRADING BASIS: ANC (no P/N option)  

TENTATIVE READING LIST:  
Taylor, American Colonies, 9780142002100.  
Morgan, American Slavery, American Freedom, 9780393324945.  
Boyer and Nissenbaum, Salem Possessed, 9780674785267.  
Berlin, Many Thousands Gone, 9780674002111.  
Ulrich, A Midwife’s Tale, 9780679733768.  
Breen, Marketplace of Revolution, 9780195181319.  
Wood, Radicalism of the American Revolution, 9780679736882.  
Zagarri, Revolutionary Backlash, 9780812220735.  

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: I am a historian of early America, in a broad and hemispheric sense. My work explores U.S. engagement with foreign communities and cultures, as well as the relationship between ordinary people and formal politics. My new book, Our Sister Republics: The United States in an Age of American Revolutions, reveals how the independence movements in early nineteenth-century Spanish America and Brazil shaped popular understandings of race, revolution, and republicanism within the United States. I have also written about Iroquois communities during the U.S. revolution, antislavery activists in Tennessee, and U.S. citizens in insurgent Brazil, and I have enjoyed writing essays, reviews, and opinion pieces for the Wall Street Journal, the Atlantic, and the Los Angeles Times.