

21A.441
Fourth Writing Assignment
COMPARATIVE ESSAY

Handed-out Tuesday, April 1, 2004
Due in class Thursday, April 15, 2004

Write an essay of at least five double-spaced pages, based on assigned readings, lectures and class discussions, discussing differences and similarities between European colonization and Indian-European relations in North America and Spanish America. You will, of course, have to keep in mind that North America was colonized by several European nations, among which we have considered France and England.

You may wish to subdivide your essay into two or more sections, to consider different aspects of the topic, for instance, one section on modes of exploitation, another on missionization, another on violence and resistance. You may discuss different topics as you see fit, but you must discuss the key topics of economic exploitation and political domination: how did the colonial powers try to exploit the New World for profit; how did they try to rule or to influence the native inhabitants; and what were the outcomes of those strategies? You cannot cover every significant topic or answer every question, but you must present and interpret some of the major differences between the colonial powers.

You will probably want to confine your remarks on English colonists to New England, but you must do so explicitly, indicating that your remarks apply to the Puritan colonists and not to other Englishmen further South. You need not discuss the Dutch, except as they are relevant to the French and English.

Cite your sources carefully, using the social science format described in the handout for the previous assignment. It is much better to be explicit about your sources ("Cronon claims that..." "As Wolf notes,..." "Taylor argues...") than to write a smooth narrative in which your sources are not mentioned. Best of all is to discuss your sources critically.