This course surveys the linkages between the spread of Europeans and European-Americans around the earth (and beyond it) and their search for knowledge about nature and the cosmos. It extends from the 1400s to the present, focusing on:

1. the initial period of European “expansion” (1400-1600)
2. the development of scientific travel (1700-1850)
3. the discovery of the nature of North America (1750-1900)
4. investigations of exotic humans and extreme environments (1800-1950)
5. the adventure of outer space (1945-2000)

I’m more interested in naturalists than in frontiersmen (you’ll learn more about dinosaur hunters than about buffalo hunters). To a significant extent this is a course in men’s history--an effort to understand the changes over time in a range of male desires and romantic ideals.

Required texts below. The books are available at the Rutgers University Bookstore, Ferren Mall. They may also be at New Jersey Books, and can be obtained from Amazon.com, BN.com, and other dealers in new or used books. **You should read and are responsible, exam-wise, for all four books.**

1. Alfred Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism*
2. John Ray, *The Rosetta Stone and the Rebirth of Ancient Egypt*
3. Roland Huntford, *The Last Place on Earth*
4. Carl Sagan, *Pale Blue Dot*

Requirements: Midterm and final exams; **two ~750 word papers, each on one of the assigned books.** (Therefore you will be writing papers on two of the four required books; we’ll work out which ones will be done by which people on Sept. 11).

Additional readings are available on the web through the links below, and will also be on Sakai for this course. Links listed as places to **study** are required. A good starting point for websurfing is **http://www.sochistdisc.org/links.htm**

Grades will be based on the following:

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Papers</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Attendance, participation</td>
<td>10</td>
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I take attendance regularly. I will have the assistance of a grader.

Schedule of classes and readings:

Sept. 4: Organization/introduction: visions of the past

**I: European expansion, 1400-1600**

Sept. 7: The world in the Middle Ages
Read: Crosby, ch 1-3

Sept. 11: Navigation in the 15th century
Read: Crosby, ch. 4-6
**Activity:** Apportion paper assignments

Sept. 14: Columbus: genius or crank?
Read: Toscanelli's letter to Canon Martins and Toscanelli's letter to Columbus, on Sakai

Sept. 18: First impressions of a new world
Read: Columbus's letter to the sovereigns, at [http://www.usm.maine.edu/~maps/columbus/translation.html](http://www.usm.maine.edu/~maps/columbus/translation.html)
Study also [http://www.columbusnavigation.com/](http://www.columbusnavigation.com/)

Sept. 21: Exploration and power

Sept. 25: Biology and imperialism
Read: Crosby, ch 7-12
**Paper option #1, on Crosby, due.**

**II: Scientific travel, 1600-1850**

Sept. 28: The earth and the scientific revolution
Click on a half-dozen maps and compare in artistry, sophistication, emphases, accuracy.

Oct. 2: Method and authority in cartography
Read: Wilford, The Mapmakers, ch. 7, 8 on Sakai

Oct. 5: Cook's tours
Read: Brosse, Great Voyages of Discovery, pp. 34-75 on Sakai
Oct. 9: Tourism and time
Read: Ray, The Rosetta Stone
**Paper option #2, on Ray, due.**

Oct. 12: Spanning the globe: Alexander von Humboldt and the botanists
Read: Humboldt, *Personal Narrative*, selections on Sakai.

Oct. 16: Discovering the deep past: Victorian dinosaurs

Oct. 19: Exploration and evolutionism
Read: Charles Darwin on Gallapagos

Oct. 23: Midterm exam

**III: Discovering America, Americans Discovering**

Oct. 26: Asking for directions
Read: Jefferson's instructions to Lewis. Find at
[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mtjhtml/mtjhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mtjhtml/mtjhome.html)
In SEARCH box, type **Lewis Instructions 1803** and click on document #1
[click on transcription link at the top of the page for easier reading!]

Oct. 30: Romance and ambition in the West
Read: Henry Savage, *Discovering America*, ch 11, 12 on Sakai

Nov. 2: **no class**—I have a professional meeting

Nov. 6: National inventorying
Philip Pauly, *Biologists and the Promise of American Life*, chapter on Sakai

Nov. 9: American environments
Read: Margaret Mead, *Coming of Age in Samoa*, on Sakai

**IV: Manliness and exploration: frozen heroism**

Nov. 13: Purity and Danger in the Arctic

Nov. 16: Entrepreneurs and their legacies

Nov. 20: Stupidity and endurance
Read: Roland Huntford, *The Last Place on Earth.*

**Paper possibility #3 due,** on Huntford

Nov. 23: no class, Thanksgiving break

**V: The final frontier?**

Nov. 27: Moving into the third dimension
Study: [http://www.nasm.si.edu/wrightbrothers/](http://www.nasm.si.edu/wrightbrothers/). Tour the online exhibition. website.

Nov. 30: Winning is the only thing
Study: [http://history.nasa.gov/](http://history.nasa.gov/). Spend some time exploring the range of materials on this website; focus intensively on one or two areas.

Dec. 4: Imagining the cosmos
Read: Sagan, *Pale Blue Dot*;

**Paper possibility #4 due,** on Sagan

Dec. 7: Seeing the earth whole: Climate and catastrophes, past and future
Read: Weart, *Discovery of Global Warming,* chapter on Sakai

Dec. 11: The tourist frontier

**Final exam:** Tuesday, December 18, 9-11AM