

AMST 335
New England
Roger Williams University
2:00-3:20
CAS 228
Fall Semester, 2006

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Hours: T, Th: 9:30 - 11:00
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Week of September 19

For *Tuesday, September 19*

Complete readings in Mourt's Relation, parts **IV** and **V**.

We'll spend some time this period looking at similarities and differences in the contact with Native Americans as experienced by both Pilgrim and Puritan settlers. These are complicated and controversial stories, and our knowledge is filtered through a single point of view... that of the white population. Reminding ourselves that we may be misled by these one-sided interpretations, yet we can still learn something about the ways both the white and Native American population sought to exploit the contact with the other. I do not use exploit in a negative sense. I simply mean a conscious attempt to use something to one's own advantage. (As in exploiting internet resources to do research.).

To augment your information concerning Native American Tribes in New England, visit two useful resources... each of which contains links to historical and contemporary information about a number of the most important tribes in this area. Clicking on the links below will carry you to these. See what you can find about at least *one* of the tribes mentioned in Wood or Mourt.

Do note that both these sites are created by amateurs, and must be used with some caution. You will find these at:

<http://www.tolatsga.org/Compacts.html>

And

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~massasoit/book.htm>

For *Friday, September 22*

From the Internet, Download and Read

Phineas Pratt's *Account of the Wessagussett Plantation*, which you will find at

http://www.winthropsociety.org/doc_pratt.php

Relations between the English and Native Americans were frequently tense, and often marked by bluster, bluff, chicanery, and outright deceit. Phineas Pratt was in the thick of things from the first, and his narrative provides a good sense of this. It reads as if it would make a good screenplay. Perhaps it needs to be taken with a grain of salt, for reasons which the introduction on the website will make clear.

On the Internet, visit Plimoth Plantation's 1627 *Plimoth Village*, which you will find at

<http://www.plimoth.org/index.htm>,

visiting the sections on the 1627 village and the Wampanoag Settlement. Take some time to look through some of the Historical Background section, as well.

Plimoth has reorganized and revised its website: alas, not for the better. It used to be possible to visit each of the buildings in this recreation of the village, but that is no longer possible. However, it is still worth spending some time browsing. The Virtual tour allows you to visit the recreated village and an interior of one of the houses. You will need to download a special viewer to do this. Perhaps one of the more interesting parts of the website is an introduction to the philosophy of interpretation used at Plimoth. Read through it, including information about how the interpreters are trained. Note that there are summer employment possibilities there, if any of you are theatrically inclined.

Course Paper I.

Preview Period Through **Thursday, September 28, 2004**
Due: **Tuesday, October 3**
Length: c. 5 pages, Typed, Double Spaced

Sources:

Wood, *New England's Prospect*
Morton, *Mourt's Relation* (Internet document)
Other Internet sources as appropriate.

Objective: Comparison to uncover differences and similarities in immigrant groups.

Instructions (choose *either* option).

1. Compare the way the Pilgrims (using Mourt and others) and Puritans (using Wood and others) encountered the **physical environment** in the new world. Consider attitudes, observations, difficulties and obstacles as they described them, and whatever else seems pertinent. What insight do the primary sources give us regarding the character of these earliest English settlers.

OR

2. Compare the way the Pilgrims (using Mourt and others) and Puritans (using Wood and others) encountered the **Native Americans** in the new world. Consider attitudes, observations, difficulties and obstacles as they described them, and whatever else seems pertinent. What insight do the primary sources give us regarding the character of these earliest English settlers

The preview is optional. If you want my preliminary remarks and suggestions you can ask for those by submitting in the Preview Area on Blackboard, no later than 9:30 Thursday, September 28.

Final Paper Must be submitted via Blackboard Submit Papers Process, no later than midnight, Tuesday, October 2.

Papers and Previews must be submitted electronically using the Blackboard.

I'll demonstrate how to do this in class. IF you have questions or difficulty, bring the paper to me on a floppy disk and I'll show you how to submit it on the machine in my office.