Colonial Carceral Logics in the Americas

This course analyzes the emergence of the carceral state through a comparative and historical framework. It links carceral logics to colonial processes across the English, French, and Spanish Americas. Taking up Foucauldian theories of expulsion and confinement, students will read primary texts by Cristobal Colón, Hernán Cortés, Jacques Cartier, and Samuel de Champlain among others to examine how colonial maps and legislation mediate emergent carceral ways of thinking. We will pay specific attention to the role(s) of gender, (sex)uality, class, and race. Students will identify the limits of nationalist rubrics while developing comparative frames for thinking variations and continuities in carceral histories and practices.