Our seminar explores the various forms of knowledge production, consumption, and circulation that characterize Europe’s colonial expansion. As Steve Shapin says, “solutions to the problem of knowledge are solutions to the problem of social order” and so colonial knowledge bears the marks of its imperial circumstances. However, colonial knowledge is not solely about the imposition of imperial power; it is also produced at the intersection of different knowledges and epistemologies. The seminar will examine various forms of knowledge production and use within European colonial settings in different parts of the globe. Among the topics covered will be: the interplay between local knowledges and global or imperial ones; museums and botanical gardens as expressions of imperial power; the connections between imperial power and ideas and practices of the body; the role of colonial science in the formulation of ideas about race and difference; the concept of the subaltern and its use for historians; how natural objects get re-framed in changing cultural contexts; the development of global networks of scientific knowledge and expertise; and finally, more recent forms of colonial knowledge production, including the collection and commoditization of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK).

The course is a research seminar. Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings in class every week. Shorter writing assignments build towards writing a substantial research paper. Grades are based upon class participation and written work. Readings can be accessed online at http://reserves.library.jhu.edu/access/reserves/findit/articles/index.php. The password is FIS436.

Jan. 29 Introduction

I. STRUCTURES OF KNOWLEDGE

Feb. 5 Making Others

Kathleen Wilson, The Island Race, Englishness, Empire, and Gender in the 18th century, (London, Routledge, 2003), Chapter 2 54-91; notes 227-36.

Feb. 12 Cross Currents

Peter Mancall, “Tales Tobacco Told In Sixteenth-Century Europe” Environmental History 2004 9(4): 648-678
Nicolas Monardes, Joyfull newes out of the new-found vvorlde Wherein are declared, the rare and singuler vertues of diuers herbs, trees, plants, oyles & stones, with their applications, aswell to the vse of phisicke, as of chirurgery: (London: Printed by E. Allde, by the assigne of Bonham Norton, 1596), from title page through sig. B2v (first 10 frames on Adobe).

Assignment: summarize the argument of one of the articles assigned this week; limit yourself to a single page (double-spaced).

Feb. 19 Imperial Representations
Sadiah Qureshi, “Displaying Sara Bartman, the Hottentot Venus” History of Science, 42 (2004), 233-257.

Assignment: Write a two page summary of the research question you are pursuing for your paper.

II. KNOWLEDGE AS POSSESSION: INSCRIBING ON COLONIAL SITES

Feb. 26 Conquering and Measuring (or, Appropriating)

Mar. 4 Research Reports

Mar. 11 Re-Making Landscapes

Assignment: Write a 5 page paper summarizing the secondary literature that you are addressing for your research paper.
Mar. 25 Re-Making Bodies
David Arnold, *Colonizing the Body*, (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1993), 1-60.

Assignment: Write a 2 page source criticism of a significant primary source for your research paper.

### III MEDIATION, APPROPRIATION AND RESISTANCE

**Apr. 1 Appropriation**

Assignment: Re-write the 5 page secondary source paper, based upon comments received and subsequent research.

**Apr. 8 Go-Betweens & Mediators**
Lynn Zastoupil, “Intimacy and Colonial Knowledge”, *Journal of Colonialism & Colonial History* 2002 3(2) [on-line only; access via Project Muse].
William Hillary, *Observations on the Air... Barbadoes* (1766) available on ECCO; Gale # CW107176227; [pp TBA].

**Apr. 15 Cultural Production**


Assignment: Write a detailed outline of your research paper.

**Apr. 22 The Post-Colonial Reversal: ITK**


**Apr. 29 Research Presentations**