

IDC 4050H: Domesticating Empire

Instructions Module One Final Project

Choose one of the sites listed below.

[Note: Many of these sites were listed for Independent Research Activity #2. You are welcome to continue working with the same site if it is on this list or to choose a different site. However, you should plan to stick with the site you choose for this assignment for the rest of the semester as it will be the foundation of your final project, so think carefully about your selection. Also note that you may propose an alternate site that is not on the list, but it must be 1) in the greater New York City areas; 2) datable to the colonial period; and 3) approved in advance by Professors Boozer and Heath.]

If feasible go to the site and walk around and explore in person. Please be aware that some sites, such as museums, require advanced registration to ensure social distancing. When you do, be sure to take a camera or a sketchbook. If it is not feasible to visit in person for health and safety reasons (or because the site is closed to visitors) do the best you can with the resources available online to gather a sense of the site

As you explore either in person or virtually, think about what this site was like in the colonial period (i.e. when the Dutch and British occupied New York City). Draw upon the methods and theories we have encountered in the class readings so far to shape your investigation. In the process, also ask yourself the following: What did the site look like in the colonial period? What kinds of activities were performed there? Who lived and worked in the area? What language(s) might be heard? Who else frequented the area and for what purpose? What did it sound like? What did it smell like? What kinds of material objects (including buildings) would you have found there? What did these feel like to the touch? Do you think it was possible to detect an imperial presence?

Then, create a description in which you present a snapshot of the site on a specific date. Your snapshot must, in some way, capture the multisensory experience of early New York and give substance and life to the multifaceted individuals associated with the site. You can be creative in your approach, choosing, for example to develop a soundscape or perhaps tell an object story (i.e., a tale that endows an object with voice and personality to tell the tale of its creation, circulation, usage, and eventual discard—a popular genre in period). You could instead choose to create a visual or a multimedia piece. Alternatively, you could choose to write a description as one might find in a letter or a diary of someone who has visited the area for the first time or even a gallows speech given by an individual right before they are executed for a crime. No matter what format you choose, your description should include a reference to the specific date in the colonial period that you've chosen to describe and it should allow you to capture a multiplicity of experiences and individuals. If you choose to provide a textual snapshot there is no word minimum or limit, however, the length of your snapshot should be adequate to the

genre you've chosen and sufficiently long to articulate and express the richness of the period and the experience you are seeking to capture.

Once you've completed your snapshot write a 400-500 explanation of what you've done, why you chose the medium that you did and how this format has allowed you to recover imperial traces as well as the experiences of those who are frequently absent from the historical record. Conclude with a consideration of what kinds of sources you'd like to be able to find to deepen and enrich your description further in the next stage of the project.

Due by Sunday, February 28 by 11:59 pm EST to the **class blog at <https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/domesticatingempire/>**

Please refer to the syllabus for the class policy regarding extension and late papers.

If you are new to blogs@baruch consult the short guide to posting material found in the Course Resources folder.