

## Early Massachusetts

The purpose of this seminar is to explore the political and social history of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

<b>Moderator:</b>	Jim Harvey
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Wednesday 2:00-4:00 PM 10 weeks, starting February 21, 2018
<b>Format:</b>	Seminar
<b>Location:</b>	Amherst College, Converse Hall, Porter Lounge, Amherst

**Description:** Most of us live in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, whose beginnings were an important part of the making of America. We regularly travel roads originally laid out by early settlers and some of us live in towns settled in the 17th century. But often we are lacking a significant understanding of our forebears, their everyday lives and the way they organized their communities.

This seminar will examine life in early Colonial Massachusetts during the time of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. It will look at the history, culture and daily life of the Colony as it experienced the influx of settlers from England and organized itself. We will seek not only to understand the life of European settlers, but also the factors that helped form the society they created including their relationships with Native Americans. We will look at not only the leaders of that society but the ordinary citizens.

**Role of participants:** Participants will read assigned material, deliver a 30-40 minute presentation and lead the following discussion, and participate in other's discussion topics.

**Resources:** Tentatively *Everyday Life in Early America*, David Freeman Hawke, but I am still looking for alternatives

**About the Moderator:** I have been a Moderator for 14 years, leading seminars on a variety of topics, including a number with historical focus. Having ancestors in Colonial Massachusetts, I have a particular interest in this topic.

**Maximum number of participants:** 17

**Emeriti accepted:** yes

**Course #** 18SEM