Dr. Ed Gray
Wednesday 12 -3pm
Seminar: Law and Land in Early America
This pro-seminar will survey the literature on sovereignty, property, and dispossession in colonial mainland North America from the late sixteenth through the early nineteenth century. We will read both primary and secondary sources with an eye towards charting the shift from a feudal, regal model for colonial land conveyance to a rights-based natural law model. We will also explore the implications of this shift for Anglo-American claims to native lands and territories. The course should be useful for students interested in the history of the law, governance, state power, and colonialism. The primary assignment for the course, in addition to weekly readings and discussions, will be an in-depth historiographical essay on a topic related to the subject matter of the course.