February 18, 2015. Lowell, MA. The UMass Lowell Saab-Pedroso Center for Portuguese Culture and Research, in partnership with the History Department, announces a lecture, “Empire, Religion, and Utopia in the Early Modern Portuguese World”, by Dr. Ana Valdez, Luso-American Foundation Visiting Professor in Portuguese Studies in the UMass Lowell History Department. The lecture – free and open to the public – will take place on Tuesday, March 31, at 5:30 p.m. at Allen House, 2 Solomont Way, Lowell, MA (UMass Lowell South Campus), parking in Wilder lot, 113 Wilder Street, Lowell, MA.

Portuguese historiography used to argue that Portugal was never an empire, in sharp contrast with Spain, France, England, and The Netherlands. Today historians question this opinion as evidence points in a different direction. This lecture will explore the history of the concept of empire and analyze how a Portuguese imperial ideology was developed in the seventeenth century by Antonio Vieira, S.J. (1608-1697), man of faith, noted diplomat, and leading writer and public intellectual in the Portuguese-speaking world of his time. We will further examine Vieira’s concept of empire in the context of early modern writing on eschatology – beliefs about the end of the world – and how his work might have influenced the process of restoration of Portuguese sovereignty after the end of the Iberian Union that lasted from 1580 to 1640.

For more information, please visit www.uml.edu/international-programs/Portuguese or contact Prof. Frank F. Sousa, director of the Saab-Pedroso Center for Portuguese Culture and Research and coordinator of the Portuguese Program in the Department of World Languages and Cultures, at frank_sousa@uml.edu or by phone at 978.934.5199.