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Office: LT 809
Fall, 2009
Office Hrs: Tuesday 1:10-2:30;
Wednesday 3:30-4:30
and by appointment

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HIST 501F: Global History Colloquium of the *Modern* Age

This colloquium is part of the Department's new major Ph.D. field in global history and it is open to and appropriate for all graduate students in all fields of study. It is designed to explore the methodological, thematic, spatial, temporal and agency challenges of research in global history. By keeping in mind the narrative (story) implications of the material we will read, it also should serve as a good foundation for the teaching of modern world history.

The course has a set of problems at its center, recognizing that methodologies of global history are hardly set in stone but are being tested in scholarly empirical work in the classroom itself. Together, we will explore competing understandings and uses of "modernity" as an organizing principle for global interconnections, subjecting comparative methodologies to critical analysis as well. If the modern was a powerful Western self-image in contrast to traditional "others," what are the challenges of its use in contemporary global research seeking connections at the systemic level and new understandings of time? Second, we examine universal principles in their historical specificity as part of distinct case studies. Through transnational and global perspectives, we look at the liberal notions of citizenship as a universal principle in the context of capitalist development and colonial control. We ask: to what extent does the transnational perspective write a new global history? We also examine the historical emergence of international law and its claims to universality. And, in exploring how a 'media' event might become a vehicle for global history, we look at the translation of feminism across the divides of colony and metropole. The course, thus, examines how the categories of gender, citizenship and law lead historians to promising research venues outside national and imperial frameworks. In addition, it takes up some of the latest research in environmental history that provides new interpretive frameworks for historical events and interconnects disparate regions of the globe. While the syllabus appears quite extensive and firm, it is rather flexible; we can add any shorter article or source you would like the class to read.

The course is run as a seminar, with shared readings, and class discussion of each week's selection of texts and themes. You are responsible, either individually or in concert with one or two other students, for leading a discussion of one week's materials: setting the agenda for the discussion and overseeing it. In addition, I require short 1 ½ page synopses of each week's readings, to be turned in the day of the discussion. You may NOT go over my page limit—this is a way to insure conceptual clarity in your writing. Each synopsis must draw out the implications of the work for research in global history (commenting on the authors' analytical assumptions) and also provide a brief comment on its usefulness as a teaching tool for you, were you to teach world history. I also require a paper of 15 pages plus footnote apparatus, on a topic to be determined with myself and the whole class. (We'll squeeze in this discussion starting October 6.) You will have the opportunity to present your findings to the class at the end of the semester.

The following books are required for the course and are available for you at the University Bookstore on campus. I've put them on reserve as well.

Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe and the Making of the Modern World Economy*, Princeton University Press

C,A, Bayly, *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780-1914, Global Connections and Comparisons*, Blackwell publishing

Alexander Woodside, *Lost Modernities: China, Vietnam, Korea and the Hazards of World History* Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2006

Frederick Cooper, Thomas C. Holt, Rebecca J. Scott, *Beyond Slavery: Explorations of Race, labor and Citizenship in Postemancipation Societies*, Chapel Hill: U. North Carolina Press, 2000

Antony Anghie, Imperialism, Sovereignty and the Making of International Law, Cambridge 2005.

Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons: The Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire* (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2006)

Mrinalini Sinha, *Specters of Mother India: The Global Restructuring of an Empire*, Duke University Press

Mike Davis, *Late Victorian Holocausts, El Niño and the Making of the Third World* (Verso 2001)

In addition, I require supplemental readings, drawn typically from methodological and thematic forums in the leading historical journal in the U.S.: *The American Historical Review*. You can find these articles easily on line and through the library's e-journals. For our discussion of genealogy, I've put a few chapters of select books on our course

reserve and they are available in the reserve library as well. These selections are required.

Assignments:

September 1: Introduction

September 8: Scale, Time, Themes, Methodology, Agency, Sources, Contingency

What must be posited to do global history? What makes a work global history?
Is global history an academic field?

Discussion: AHR Conversation: “On Transnational History,” *AHR*, 111, 5 (December 2006), pp. 1441-1464

In addition, please choose one of these topics and, with others, do a little work on it for our general discussion. **There is no written assignment for this week.**

- The Journal of Global History*
- The Journal of World History*
- The World History Association
- H-net job and AHA Perspectives
- Book review rubrics (particularly AHR)
- Publishers’ catalogues (what is included in world history publishing?)
- Funding agencies support

I. Intellectual genealogies: why the shift to the research field of global history in the last fifteen years (or so).

Continue to think about the many reasons for the burgeoning interest in global history as you read some of the key forerunners: (reserve and e-reserve reading)

September 15:

Part 2: “History and the Social Sciences: the Longue Durée” in Fernand Braudel, *On History* (trans. Sarah Matthews), pp. 25-63 (book is on reserve for the course)

“Introduction,” in Peter Kriedte, Hans Medick, Jürgen Schlumbohm, *Industrialization before Industrialization* , pp. 1-11 (book is on reserve as well for the class).

“An Approach to Modern Labor: Worker Peasantries in Historic Saxony and the Friuli Region over Three Centuries,” Jean H.

Quataert and Douglas R. Holmes, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 28, no. 2 (April 1986): 191-216.

Jean H. Quataert, "Combining Agrarian and Industrial Livelihood: Rural Household in the Saxon Oberlausitz," *Journal of Family History*, Summer 1985, pp. 145-162 (recommended, not required)

II: Interpretive Uses of Modernity

- September 22: Systemtic Analysis: The Modern (European) World Capitalist System
 Immanuel Wallerstein and Resat Kasaba, Incorporation into the World-Economy: Change in the Structure of the Ottoman Empire, 1750-1839 (pp. 38). ON RESERVE (pls. Xerox it)
 Chapter 9. "Hold the Tiller Firm: On Method and the Unit of Analysis" in Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Essential Wallerstein* (through e-reserve for the course and book is on reserve as well), pp. 149-59.
- September 29: Reciprocal Comparisons and Global Conjunctures: The Great Divergence
 Pomenanz, all
- October 6: The "drivers" of large-scale change
 Bailey, pp. xix-120, 468-87
 Begin to discuss possible research topics (we will schedule short presentations at the end of the next few classes)
- October 13: Temporal Disruptions and Comparisons: Lost Modernities. East Asian Mandarinate
 Woodside, all

III. Confronting the Universal

- October 20: Trans-Atlantic Histories and Citizenship
Cooper, et. al. all
Andrew Zimmerman, "A German in Africa," *AHR*, 110, 5 (December 2005), pp. 1362-1398.
- October 27: International Law and Universality
Anghie, all
- November 3: Media event, feminisms, global contexts, and ruptures. What makes this global history?
Sinha, all

IV. Regional Connections

- November 10: Indian Ocean History
Bose, all
- November 17: Climate and Disease in History
Davis, all
AHR Conversations: Environmental Historians and Environmental Crisis, AHR 113, 5 December 2008, pp. 1431-65
- November 24: NO Class (thanksgiving break)
- December 1, 8 and possibly another time as well to be determined
Presentations.

For your presentation, you are asked to provide a short bibliography for all students of the most important books/articles you used that would be helpful for future teaching preparations.

Final Paper is due Tuesday, December 15 in my office by high noon