

History 641
Spring 2010

Currents in Global History: Reading Seminar in World History

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Meeting room and times: University Hall 319, M 2:30-5:20

Course Description: Since the establishment of the World History Organization in 1982, world history has emerged as a prominent subfield in the broader discipline of history. This reading seminar provides an understanding of the methodological and theoretical parameters of this new and exciting historical direction. Tracing currents in world history from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day, the seminar allows students to experience the subfield's rich intellectual diversity.

Course Requirements: Regular and timely attendance of all discussion sections, nine analytical reaction papers, one textbook analysis, and a brief paper linking at least two approaches presented in this class to your own research.

Participation and Attendance: Regular and timely attendance of all class meetings is a main requirement of the class. Be prepared to engage class discussions as much of your grade depends on it. There are no excused absences without proper documentation (e.g., medical excuse). Two unexcused absences will result in the loss of 50 points from your course total. Three or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the class.

Analytical Reaction Paper: Each week you are required to read a book associated with a corresponding theme. On nine weeks during the semester you are required to write a short (2-3 pages, double-spaced) analytical reaction paper. Should you select a work not listed book for purchase section, please make enough copies of your review to share with the rest of the class.

Textbook Analysis: Teaching remains an integral component of world history. At some point in your career you might be asked to teach a world history survey. To prepare you for this exercise, you should review one of the many survey texts available on the market in a short (3-4 pages, double spaced) paper. You do not need to purchase a textbook, as a selection of them will be available to you. Please circulate your analysis with the rest of the class.

Short Research Paper: This short (4-6 pages, double spaced) paper is designed to relate some of the approaches learned in this class to your own research. Please select at least two weekly approaches and discuss how they connect to your particular investigations. You do not have to share your paper with the rest of the class, but you should be able to present your ideas in class on week 16.

Grading:

Participation and Attendance	100 points
9 Reaction Papers	90 points
1 Textbook Analysis	30 points
1 Short Research Paper	80 points
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Total	300 points

Books for Purchase:

Inga Cliendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests: Maya and Spaniards in Yucatan, 1517-1570* 2nd Edition (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003)

Engseng Ho, *The Graves of Tarim: Genealogy and Mobility across the Indian Ocean* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006)

J. R. McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World* (New York: Norton & Co, 2001).

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage, 1979)

Oswald Spengler, *The Decline of the West* (New York: Vintage, 2006)

Immanuel Wallerstein, *World Systems Analysis: An Introduction* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2004)

Course Outline: Highlighted works are from the books for purchase section

Week 1 (January 10): Course Introductions

Week 2 (January 17): Martin Luther King Day – No instruction

Week 3 (January 24): The End of the World as We Know It: Philosophers and World History

Pat Manning, *Navigating World History*

William McNeill, *The Rise of the West*

Oswald Spengler, *The Decline of the West*

Arnold Toynbee, *A Study of History*

H. G. Wells, *The Outline of History*

Week 4 (January 31): Social Scientists I: Modernization Theory

Reinhard Bendix, *Kings or People*

Cyril E. Black, *Comparative Modernization: A Reader*

Rondo Cameron, *A Concise Economic History of the World*

John A. Hall, *Powers and Liberties*

John M. Headley, *The Europeanization of the World*

E.L. Jones, *Growth Recurring*

-----, *Coming Full Circle*

David S. Landes, *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations*

Michael Mann, *Sources of Social Power*

W.W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth*, 3rd ed.

-----, *How It All Began*

Week 5 (February 7): Social Scientists II: Dependency and World System Analysis

Andre Gunder Frank, *World Accumulation*

-----, *Dependent Accumulation and Underdevelopment*

Noel J. Kent, *Hawaii: Islands under the Influence*

Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*

L.S. Stavrianos, *Global Rift*

Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Modern World-System*, 3 vols. to date

-----, ***World Systems Analysis: An Introduction***

-----, *Historical Capitalism*

Eric Wolf, *Europe and the People without History*

Week 6 (February 14): Extending World Systems Analysis

Janet Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*

C.A. Bayly, *The Birth of the Modern World*

R. Bin Wong, *China Transformed*

Christopher Chase-Dunn and Thomas D. Hall, *Rise and Demise*

Stewart Gordon, *When Asia was the World*

Peter Gran, *The Rise of the Rich*

Andre Gunder Frank, *ReOrient*

Andre Gunder Frank and B. Gills, *World System: Five Hundred Years or Five Thousand?*

Kenneth Pommeranz, *The Great Divergence*

Week 7 (February 21) Cross-Cultural Trade and Encounters

Janet Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*

Jerry H. Bentley, *Old World Encounters*

Richard Bulliet, *The Camel and the Wheel*

K.N. Chandhuri, *Trade and Civilization in the Indian Ocean*

Philip D. Curtin, *Cross-Cultural Trade in World History*

-----, *Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex*

S.D. Goitein, *A Mediterranean Society*

Stewart Gordon, *When Asia was the World*

Kenneth Pomeranz and Steven Topik, *The World that Trade Created*

James D. Tracy ed., *The Rise of Merchant Empires*

Liu Xinru, *Silk and Religion*

Week 8 (February 28) Ecological and Environmental Change

William Beinart and Lotte Hughes, *Environment and Empire*

Edmund Burke, III and Ken Pommeranz eds., *The Environment and World History*

Alfred Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism*

-----, *The Columbian Exchange*

Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*

-----, *Collapse*

J.R. McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun*

-----, *Mosquito Empires*

William McNeill, *Plagues and Peoples*

John F. Richards, *The Unending Frontier*

Week 9 (March 7) ImperialismMichael Adas, *Prophets of Rebellion*-----, *Machines as the Measure of Men*James M. Blaut, *The Colonizer's Model of the World*Bernard Cohn, *Colonialism and its Form of Knowledge*Philip Curtin, *The World and the West*Daniel Headrick, *Tentacles of Progress*-----, *The Tools of Empire*-----, *Power over Peoples*Pekka Hämäläinen, *The Comanche Empire*George Steinmetz, *The Devil's Handwriting***Week 10** (March 14): Spring Recess—no instruction**Week 11** (March 21): Post-ImperialismBenedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe*James Clifford, *Predicament of Culture*-----, *Routes*Vicente Diaz, *Repositioning the Missionary*Anne McClintock, *Imperial Leather*Marie Louise Pratt, *Imperial Eyes*Vicente Rafael, *Contracting Colonialism***Edward Said, *Orientalism***Nicholas Thomas, *Colonialism's Culture***Week 12** (March 28): Migrations and DiasporasJames Clifford, *Routes*Robin Cohen, *Global Diasporas*Stephane Dufoix, *Diasporas*Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*

-----, "There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack"

Engseng Ho, *The Graves of Tarim*Dirk Hoerder, *Cultures in Contact*Richard Kagan and Philip Morgan ed., *Atlantic Diasporas*Adam McKeown, *Melancholy Order*

Week 13 (April 4): Ethnographic History**Inga Cliendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests: Maya and Spaniards in Yucatan, 1517-1570***Jean Comaroff, *Body of Power, Spirit of Resistance*Greg Denning, *Islands and Beaches*Epeli Hau'ofa, *We are the Ocean: Selected Works***Engseng Ho, *The Graves of Tarim***Harry Liebersohn, *The Traveler's World*Richard Price, *First-Time*-----, *Alabi's World*Anne Salmond, *Aphrodite's Island***Week 14** (April 11) Oceans and World HistoryJerry Bentley et al., *Seascapes*Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World*Paul Butel, *The Atlantic*Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra and Erik R. Seeman eds., *The Atlantic in Global History*Giancarlo Casale, *The Ottoman Age of Exploration*K.N. Chandhuri, *Trade and Civilization in the Indian Ocean*Daniel Finamore ed., *Maritime History as World History*Donald Freeman, *The Pacific*John Gillis, *Islands of the Mind: How Human Imagination Created the Atlantic World*Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic***Engseng Ho, *The Graves of Tarim***Charles King, *The Black Sea*Bernard Klein & Gesa Mackenthun eds., *Sea Changes: Historicizing the Ocean*Martin W. Lewis and Kären Wigen, *The Myth of Continents*Marcus Rediker, *The Slave Ship: A Human History*Philip de Souza, *Seafaring and Civilization: Maritime Perspectives on World History*John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1680***Week 15** (April 18): Teaching World History

A number of world history textbooks are available for your analysis

Week 16 (April 25): Research in World History

Be prepared to share your findings with the rest of the class