

LITERATURE AND METHODOLOGY OF WORLD / TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY

HIST 5354 [6354] / CRN: 17710
Class: Wednesday 1:30–4:20 pm
Office Hours: T & R 1:00–2:30 pm
Office Phone: (915) 747-8948

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Course Description:

Literature and Methodology of World / Transnational History is designed to introduce doctoral students to some of the literature, methodologies and conceptual possibilities of world and transnational history. There will be three types of readings in this course: those that trace the development and transformation of world history and transnational history; those that propose alternative ways of examining historical narratives especial within world history; and finally some of the recent exciting works in these two subfields. This course will also help doctoral students identify, develop, and complete their third field portfolio for either the World /Transnational History third field or the Teaching World History third field.

The selection of articles and books are by no means comprehensive, and they are limited by my own training and interests. To overcome this problem, Drs. Ambler, Brunk, Edison, & Martinez will each lead a discussion on readings of their choosing related to their own expertise and interests.

Assignments:

- Essay comparing world history textbooks (5%)

You will compare and contrast two world history textbooks published in different eras. One should be outdated (from the 1980s or earlier if possible, but make sure it is a textbook) and the other one should be relatively current. The UTEP Library should have many outdated textbooks, and there is a collection of current textbooks that you can borrow from The Center for History Teaching & Learning (LART 334).

Read through the “Table of Contents” and other relevant introduction material in both texts, and summarize the major differences between the two texts in a 2–3 page essay (no more than 1,000 words) in standard format (Times New Roman, 12 point font, and double spaced). Try to discover the reasons why certain societies are included or excluded, why certain societies received more or less coverage, the rationale behind periodization, and the overarching narrative or framework for organizing the entire text. This essay is due via email to jfan@utep.edu as a word attachment before the start of second class on Aug. 31, and it will account for 5% of your final grade. For those pursuing Teaching World History third field, this short essay will also get you started on the review essay of current world history text and primary source readers that you need for the portfolio.

- Weekly review essays (35%)

Your weekly **academic** review essay, should be no more than 2 pages in length (around 500 words) in standard format (Times New Roman, 12 point font, and double spaced), where you must identify the main

arguments of the book(s)/article(s) and provide a succinct summary of key components. At the end of the review, you also need to submit a few questions or observations designed to stimulate class discussion.

You must submit your essay and discussion questions via email to jfan@utep.edu as a word attachment by 11:59:59 pm every Tuesday before Wednesday's class. By 12:00 am on Wednesday, your paper is late, and your grade will suffer. You must turn in a review essay for each of the 11 books; failing to do so, will result in 0 points, and that 0 will be carried towards your final grade. However, if you turned in all 11 review essays, only the 7 with the highest score will count towards your final grade; leaving room for improvement. Together the top 7 review essays will count for 35% of your final grade.

- Participation & attendance (20%)

20% of the final grade is based on your accumulated performance during the weekly class discussion. Due to the nature of a graduate seminar, any unexcused absence or frequent tardiness will lower your grade. However, just being present physically without actively and responsibly contributing to class discussions will NOT help your participation grade. If you miss a class, you must turn in a more detailed 4–5 page (around 1000 words) weekly review on that day's readings within a week of the missed class.

- Annotated third field bibliography (10%)

You are expected to meet with me individually during the first three weeks of the semester to discuss your possible third field topic. By week 4 (**Sep. 14**), you must identify at least **5** books/articles related to your third field topic (in addition to assigned readings) and submit a bibliography using the standard Chicago Style http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

By week 10 (**Oct. 26**), you must expand your list to at least **10** books/articles and submit an annotated bibliography. You are expected to meet with me individually one more time during the final three weeks of the semester to finalize your third field. The completion of your annotated third field bibliography will account for 10% of your final grade.

- Final essay (30%)

Your final essay, 10–12 page, is due before the start of last class (**Nov. 30**) via email as a word attachment. In this paper, you need to combine a brief intellectual rationale for your third field topic with a historiographical essay exploring some of the relevant literature within your field. The final paper will account for 30% of your final grade. You also have to orally present your third field topic and rationale within 10 minutes during the last class period.

Required Texts: [Listed according to reading schedule]

1. Jeremy D. Popkin, *From Herodotus to H-net: The Story of Historiography*, Oxford University Press, 2016, 272 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0199923007
2. Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, *Empires in World History*, Princeton University Press, 2011, 528 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0691152363
3. Immanuel Wallerstein, *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*, Duke University Press, 2004, 128 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0822334422

4. Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, Verso, Revised edition, 2006, 240 pages, ISBN-13: 978-1844670864
5. Alfred W. Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900*, Cambridge University Press, Second edition 2004, 390 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0521546188
6. Martin W. Lewis & Kären Wigen, *The Myth of Continents: A Critique of Metageography*, University of California Press, 1997, 383 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0520207431
7. Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton: A Global History*, Vintage, Reprint edition, 2015, 640 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0375713965
8. Peter Watson, *The Great Divide: Nature and Human Nature in the Old World and the New*, Harper Perennial, Reprint edition 2013, 640 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0061672460
9. Joseph C. Miller, *The Problem of Slavery as History: A Global Approach*, Yale University Press, 2009, Paperback: 240 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0300113150
10. Adam McKeown, *Melancholy Order: Asian Migration and the Globalization of Borders*, Columbia University Press, 2008, 472 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0231140775
11. Joachim Radkau, *Nature and Power: A Global History of the Environment*, Cambridge University Press, 2008, 450 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0521616737

Reading Schedule:

1. Aug. 24: **INTRODUCTION:**
Start reading Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, *Empire in World History*
2. Aug. 31: **TEACHING WORLD HISTORY:**
Wendy Laura Belcher, “How to write an Academic Book Review” (PDF)
Essay comparing world history textbooks due!
3. Sep. 7: **THE FIELDS OF HISTORY: WORLD, TRANSNATIONAL, & GLOBAL:**
Jeremy D. Popkin, *From Herodotus to H-net: The Story of Historiography*
Jerry H. Bentley, “Shapes of World History in Twentieth-Century Scholarship” (PDF)
Simon Macdonald, “Transnational History: a review of past and present scholarship” (PDF)
4. Sep. 14: **WORLD HISTORY VIA EMPIRES:**
Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, *Empires in World History*
Third field bibliography due!
5. Sep. 21: **EXPLAINING THE MODERN WORLD—WORLD SYSTEM ANALYSIS:**
Immanuel Wallerstein, *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*
Lauren Benton, “From the World-Systems Perspective to Institutional World History” (PDF)
Carl Strikwerda, “From World-Systems to Globalization: Theories of Transnational Change and the Place of the United States” (PDF)
6. Sep. 28: **BEYOND THE NATION-STATE:**
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*
7. Oct. 5: **EXPLAINING THE RISE OF WEST:**
Alfred W. Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900*
[Discussion lead by Dr. Brunk]

8. Oct. 12: **WHY IS EUROPE A CONTINENT? & WHY DOES GEOGRAPHY MATTER?**
Martin W. Lewis & Kären Wigen, *The Myth of Continents: A Critique of Metageography*
9. Oct. 19: **GLOBAL CAPITALISM & EMPIRE:**
Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton: A Global History*
[Discussion lead by Dr. Edison]
10. Oct. 26: **HISTORY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING:**
Peter Watson, *The Great Divide: Nature and Human Nature in the Old World and the New*
[Discussion lead by Dr. Martinez]
Annotated third field bibliography due!
11. Nov. 2: **MIGRATION AND DIASPORA:**
Adam McKeown, *Melancholy Order: Asian Migration and the Globalization of Borders*
12. Nov. 9: **SLAVERY IN WORLD HISTORY:**
Joseph C. Miller, *The Problem of Slavery as History: A Global Approach*
[Discussion lead by Dr. Ambler]
13. Nov. 16: **GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY:**
Joachim Radkau, *Nature and Power: A Global History of the Environment*
- Nov. 23: **ALMOST THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS**
14. Nov. 30: **PRESENTATION OF THIRD FILED:**
Final essay due!