

# LITERATURE AND METHODOLOGY OF WORLD / TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY

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HIST 6354 / CRN: 18107

Class: Wednesday 1:30–4:20 pm

Office Hours: T & R 1:00–2:30 pm

Office Phone: (915) 747-8948

Professor Joshua Fan

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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, transnational, and global history. There will be three types of readings in this course: those that trace the development and transformation of these histories; those that propose alternative ways of examining historical narratives; and finally some of the recent exciting works in these fields. 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 and Brunk 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 One should be outdated (from the 1980s or earlier if possible but make sure it is a textbook) and the other one should be relatively current. The UTEP Library should have many outdated textbooks (you can even use a high school-level world history text), and there is a collection of current textbooks that you can borrow from The Center for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](mailto:jfan@utep.edu) as a word attachment before the start of **FIRST** class on **Aug. 29**, 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.

Please name all of your assignments starting with your first initial and last name capitalized. For example, “JFAN world history textbooks.”

- Weekly review essays (**35%**) & Discussion questions

Your weekly academic review essay, should be about 2 pages in length (500–700 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 are also required 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](mailto: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. The first late paper will be marked down 10%, the second late paper will be marked down 20%, after that NO late paper will be accepted.

Sometimes you just have too much to do, so you are exempted from **3** review essays of your choosing. During the week that you choose not to write a review essay, you just need to notify me via email. However, just because you are not writing a review essay, it does not mean that you can come to class unprepared. You are still expected to participate in class discussion.

In total, you must turn in a review essay for **9** of the assigned books, but only the **7** with the highest score will count towards your final grade; leaving room for improvement. Together they 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 for whatever reason, you must turn in a more detailed 4–5 page (around 1000 words) weekly review on that day's readings within one 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, 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](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). This bibliography is due via email to [jfan@utep.edu](mailto:jfan@utep.edu) as a word attachment before the start of class on **Sep. 19**.

By week 10, you must expand your list to at least **10** books/articles (in addition to assigned readings) and submit an **annotated** bibliography. This annotated bibliography is due via email as a word attachment before the start of class on **Oct. 31**.

You are expected to meet with me individually one more time during the final three weeks of the semester to finalize your third field.

Your final annotated bibliography for your historiographical essay should contain at least **15** books/articles that were **NOT** assigned in class, but you can certainly include class readings that are relevant to your topic. You will submit your final annotated bibliography with your final essay, and the completion of this assignment will account for 10% of your final grade.

- Final essay (30%)

Your final essay, 12–15 page, is due before midnight on **Dec. 12** via email as a word attachment. For those doing the World / Transnational third field, you need to combine a brief intellectual rationale for your third field topic. Otherwise, this is a historiographical essay exploring some of the relevant literature within your field/topic. You certainly can incorporate ALL of the readings from your annotated bibliography, but the focus needs to be on the new readings that you did outside of the class. Certain readings may not fit in the flow of your historiography, but you must incorporate at least **10** of the new works.

**Required Texts:** [Listed according to reading schedule]

1. Sebastian Conrad, *What Is Global History?* Princeton University Press, 2017, 312 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0691178196
2. Jane Burbank & 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. Martin W. Lewis & Kären Wigen, *The Myth of Continents: A Critique of Metageography*, University of California Press, 1997, 383 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0520207431
6. Alfred W. Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900*, Cambridge University Press, Second edition, 2004, 390 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0521546188
7. Felipe Fernández-Armesto, *Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration*, W. W. Norton & Company, Reprint edition, 2007, 464 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0393330915
8. Joachim Radkau, *Nature and Power: A Global History of the Environment*, Cambridge University Press, 2008, 450 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0521616737
9. Frederick Cooper, *Africa in the World: Capitalism, Empire, Nation-State*, Harvard University Press, 2014, 144 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0674281394
10. Giorgio Riello, *Cotton: The Fabric that Made the Modern World*, Cambridge University Press; Reprint edition, 2015, 436 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0521166706
11. Carl Nightingale, *Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities*, University of Chicago Press, Reprint edition, 2016, 538 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0226379715
12. David Christian, *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History*, University of California Press, Second edition, 2011, 672 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0520271449

**Reading Schedule:**

1. Aug. 29: **INTRODUCTION:**  
Wendy Laura Belcher, “How to write an Academic Book Review” (PDF)  
[Essay comparing world history textbooks due!](#)
2. Sep. 5: **THE FIELDS OF HISTORY: WORLD, TRANSNATIONAL, & GLOBAL:**  
Sebastian Conrad, *What Is Global History?*  
Jerry H. Bentley, “Shapes of World History in Twentieth-Century Scholarship” (PDF)  
Simon Macdonald, “Transnational History: a review of past and present scholarship” (PDF)

3. Sep. 12: **WORLD HISTORY VIA EMPIRES:**  
Jane Burbank & Frederick Cooper, *Empires in World History*
4. Sep. 19: **EXPLAINING THE MODERN WORLD—WORLD SYSTEM ANALYSIS:**  
Immanuel Wallerstein, *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*  
Andre Gunder Frank, “The Development of Underdevelopment” (PDF)  
Carl Strikwerda, “From World-Systems to Globalization: Theories of Transnational Change and the Place of the United States” (PDF)  
Third field bibliography due!
5. Sep. 26: **BEYOND NATION-STATE:**  
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*  
Max Bergholz, “Thinking the Nation” (PDF)
6. Oct. 3: **EXPLAINING THE RISE OF WEST:**  
Alfred W. Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900*  
[Discussion lead by Dr. Brunk]
7. Oct. 10: **WHY IS EUROPE A CONTINENT? & WHY DOES GEOGRAPHY MATTER?**  
Martin W. Lewis & Kären Wigen, *The Myth of Continents: A Critique of Metageography*
8. Oct. 17: **EXPLORATIONS & ENCOUNTERS:**  
Felipe Fernández-Armesto, *Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration*
9. Oct. 24: **AFRICA IN WORLD HISTORY:**  
Frederick Cooper, *Africa in the World: Capitalism, Empire, Nation-State*  
[Discussion lead by Dr. Ambler]
10. Oct. 31: **ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY:**  
Joachim Radkau, *Nature and Power: A Global History of the Environment*  
Annotated third field bibliography due!
11. Nov. 7: **ECONOMIC HISTORY VIA COTTON:**  
Giorgio Riello, *Cotton: The Fabric that Made the Modern World*
12. Nov. 14: **URBAN HISTORY VIA RACE:**  
Carl Nightingale, *Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities*
- ☺ Nov. 21: **ALMOST THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS**
13. Nov. 28: **BIG HISTORY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING:**  
David Christian, *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History*
14. Dec. 5: **LOOKING BACK & GENERAL DISCUSSION:**  
Time for your Final Essay
- Dec. 12: **FINAL ESSAY & ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE!**