

# Graduate Seminar Courses for Fall 2012, 9/4/12-12/14/12

UW-Madison - Department of History

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## **History 730: The Historical Literature of the Caribbean** (Prosem)

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, 5255 Mosse Humanities

with Professor Franco Scarano

The seminar introduces the historical literature of the Caribbean, with an emphasis on works concerning the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Western Hemisphere's colonial sphere par excellence, the Caribbean has always been historicized under a colonial gaze, even after much of the region underwent decolonization after World War II. Modern historical narratives sprang in Early Modern era from European aspirations for a more rational exploitation of the region's working populations. Later narratives were kindled by North Atlantic processes that put Caribbean peoples at the center of concern but kept them, for the most part, in a subaltern role: the antislavery debates of the nineteenth century, the decolonization debates of the midtwentieth, and arguably the postcolonial approaches that have become current, particularly since the 1980s. Counter-narratives of resistance, adaptation, and survival have always existed, of course. But in spite of the latter's importance, what sets the Caribbean apart in historiographical terms is the degree to which historical knowledge has assisted the practices of domination and the exercise of colonial, neo-, or even post-colonial power.

Seminar requirements include common readings and a historiographical paper, organized thematically.

## **History 755: Empire & Revolution: U.S. and European Colonialism in Southeast Asia** (Prosem)

Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00 PM, 5257 Mosse Humanities

with Professor Alfred McCoy

Starting with reflections on the meaning of "empire" in an age of America's global dominion, the course will explore the rise of European empires during the "high colonialism" of the 19th and 20th centuries. After reviewing the literature on the rise of modern empires, the course will explore both the expansion of European colonialism into Southeast Asia and the region's response—ranging from resistance to peasant revolt and national revolution. With the world's most diverse array of imperial powers and its longest, most intense colonization, Southeast Asia is the ideal region for a close, comparative study of imperialism.

In this selective survey of European empires, the seminar will focus closely on US colonial rule in the Philippines from 1898-1946, an important but forgotten chapter in American history. Indeed, in two centuries of American history, the US conquest and colonization of the Philippines is the only experience comparable to our current involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq. By exploring this juxtaposition of past and present in the history of America's foreign adventures, the seminar will, in its opening and closing sessions, explore the way the past bears upon the present.

The course thus introduces students to readings on the dynamics of empire and the social processes of both resistance and revolution in modern Southeast Asia—focusing on the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Burma. After a brief survey of some basic readings on the theory of empire, the seminar will move on to study aspects of colonialism and resistance in Southeast Asia, emphasizing the most creative scholarly works to emerge from this dynamic region—writings by Clifford Geertz, James C. Scott, Benedict Anderson, Anthony Reid, and others. Other topics will examine more focused scholarship, for example reviewing accounts by both Filipino and American scholars to gain some sense of the perspectives that drove both parties during the Philippine-American War (1898-1902).

More broadly, the course will explore issues central to the character of global empires--the causes of imperial expansion, the drive for military security, the psychology of colonial dominion, ecological and economic transformations, the rise of nationalist resistance, and the dynamics of imperial decline.

Instead of transferring a fund of facts about European empires and anti-colonial revolutions, the seminar seeks to examine the perspectives and perceptions of Western and Asian scholars who have studied these complex processes. Hopefully, students will emerge from the course with a better understanding of the nature of empire, the emergence of modern Southeast Asia, the future of U.S. global power, and, more broadly, the dynamics of historical change.

### **History 755: Space & Historiography of Southeast Asia (Prosem)**

Mondays, 3:30-5:30 PM, 5245 Mosse Humanities  
with Professor Thongchai Winichakul

Space and geography matter in the studies of Southeast Asian past. In recent years, the dynamism in the field owes partly to the changing geographical perspectives with which historians look into the past: national/ regional/ transnational/ other scales, South China Sea/ Eurasia, land/ sea-based, coastal/ hinterland, lowland/ highland/ mountain, and so on. The class will also explore broader how the "spatial turn" in scholarship infects historical studies of Southeast Asia.

### **History 801: What is Love?**

Mondays, 3:00-5:00 PM, 1217 Mosse Humanities  
with Professor Marc Kleijwegt

*What is love?*



### **History 805: Medieval History**

Tuesdays, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, 5255 Mosse Humanities  
with Professor Karl Shoemaker

This seminar will examine scholarly debates surrounding the so-called 'Feudal Revolution,' in which it is thought that the structures of centralized governmental power in 10th century Europe disintegrated and gave way to highly-localized exploitive lordships. According to standard historical narratives these exploitive lordships, which relied heavily on unfree and semi-free labor and exercised brutally coercive power over communities throughout Europe for two centuries, were finally subdued through an alliance between weak kings and papal power, who developed a 'proto rule of law.' This seminar will ask 1) was there such a thing as a 'feudal revolution'? 2) if so, what were its main characteristics? 3) what role did law play in eventually breaking the power of coercive lordships? what role did the medieval Church play in breaking the power of coercive lordships? In part, this course be in part a seminar concerning the pre-history of European nationalism, and will pay special attention to the role of law in facilitating the growth of royal and ecclesiastical governmental institutions in medieval Europe.

### **History 850: History and Historiography of the Soviet Union**

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, 5257 Mosse Humanities  
with Professor Francine Hirsch

This course will investigate the history of the Soviet Union, beginning with the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and concluding with the collapse in 1991. It will focus in part on historiography, looking at how scholars in the United States and Europe-- during and after the Cold War--have written about the Revolution and its aftermath. We will explore a number of themes including: war and revolution, nationality and empire, Stalinism, Soviet science, the Soviet Union at war, Cold War politics and culture, Soviet internationalism, and Soviet reform.

Ability to read Russian or another foreign language is helpful but not required.

### **History 857: History of India (South Asia): Empires of the East**

Wednesdays, 1:20-3:20 PM, 5245 Mosse Humanities  
with Professor André Wink

This seminar focuses on the struggle for empire in India and the Indian Ocean throughout history but especially in modern times, i.e. Portuguese, Dutch and British expansion and the Great Game as well as Russian, American and Chinese imperialism in the area today.

### **History 861: History of East Africa**

Fridays, 1:20-3:20 PM, 5255 Mosse Humanities  
with Professor Neil Kodesh

This seminar will explore the social, political, intellectual, and environmental history of East Africa. We will examine a wide range of topics – political complexity, health and healing, memory and the environment, Christianity, colonialism, cultural politics, etc. – and cover a broad chronology spanning from the early precolonial period to the present. Our readings will include both classic and recently published works, and will be drawn from the disciplines of history, archaeology, linguistics, and anthropology. The methods and interpretive insights that we discuss will hopefully prove useful for historians studying other parts of the continent and the world, as well as for students from other disciplines.

### **History 891: Gender and War in the Twentieth Century (Prosem)**

Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 PM, 5255 Mosse Humanities  
with Professor Mary Louise Roberts

This graduate seminar will explore how gender shapes and is shaped by the experience of the two world wars of the twentieth century. We will read both primary and secondary sources. While the geographical emphasis will be on Europe, we will also examine the encounter with total war in the United States and Southeast Asia. Our approach throughout will be transnational and comparative. Some questions we will ask are: How do cultural notions of masculinity figure in the recruitment of soldiers and the construction of military “comradeship”? How does “wounded” masculinity become a trope of war’s effects? How did women in the United States and Russia adapt to military life and combat? What role did women play in resistance movements? What did “survival” mean for women—on the homefront, in concentration camps? How does the procurement and preparation of food—a traditionally female task—assume new meaning during wartime? Finally, we will devote an entire section of the course to the role of sexuality in war, including prostitution and sexual violence. What is the “body” of war? How does the possession of women’s bodies delineate spheres of power in the male contest for territory?

### **History 900: Introduction to History for U.S. Historians**

Wednesdays, 1:20-3:20 PM, 5257 Mosse Humanities  
with Professor Colleen Dunlavy

This course, which is required of incoming students in the U.S. History graduate program, provides a forum for students to become better acquainted with each other and with a broad range of the U.S. faculty. Each week, one or more members of the U.S. faculty will visit seminar to discuss recent developments in her/his field(s) of expertise. The course also provides a common grounding in certain essentials of the profession. The interpretation of this goal varies somewhat from year to year, depending on who teaches the course. In Fall 2012, the seminar will emphasize the history of writing about U.S. history (i.e., U.S. historiography) since the late nineteenth century, a subject that has enjoyed something of a renaissance in the last decade or so and that will encourage us to reflect on what it is that historians do, how it has changed over time, and how it might be transformed in the future. We will also explore essential conceptual tools for historians, the challenges of internationalizing U.S. history, the burgeoning body of digital resources, professional issues such as the education of historians and academic ethics, and the research process (culminating in a research proposal).

### **History 901: Writing the Past**

Mondays, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, 5245 Mosse Humanities  
with Professors Nan Enstad & Steve Kantrowitz

What is good history writing and how do we do it? For a discipline whose roots lie largely in literature and in which writing well is critical to professional success, we devote a surprisingly small proportion of graduate education to working explicitly on our writing. Most seminars focus on honing skills in critical reading. Yet writing is a partner to thinking, and the most important tool at our disposal as we interpret the past is command of the written word.

Each week in this seminar we will consider a particular kind of history—not a field or topic, but an approach to writing the past. Among our starting points will be works that organize their narratives around institutions, movements, biographies, places, events, and ideas. Through a wide range of excellent historical writing (and some non-historical writing as well), we will build our awareness of the historian’s toolkit, and of the strengths and weaknesses of various writing strategies. We will consider such topics as building dramatic tension; utilizing chronology to order narrative (and when to avoid it); and incorporating theory without losing elegance in prose. We will also discuss nuts-and-bolts issues

such as how to make your prose vivid, active and engaging. Our thesis is that good history writing can be taught, and that you already have the ability to learn it.

Writing assignments in this seminar will invite students to experiment with different narrative forms for writing the past. Students are encouraged to use their own primary research as subject matter; this seminar may thus allow opportunity to work on MA theses or dissertation chapters. Graduate students in any field of history or in history-related disciplines may enroll in this seminar.

Interested students should contact the professors:

Steve Kantrowitz [skantrow@wisc.edu](mailto:skantrow@wisc.edu) & Nan Enstad [nenstad@wisc.edu](mailto:nenstad@wisc.edu)

### **History 982: Legacies of War in Latin America**

Tuesdays, 6:00-8:30 PM, 5255 Mosse Humanities  
with Professor Steve Stern

This interdisciplinary graduate seminar focuses on "legacies of war" in Latin American societies such as Peru, El Salvador/Central America, and Colombia, where genuine civil war or armed insurgency reshaped society and gave rise to human rights controversies in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. We will explore the legacies of war for different kinds of social actors — state actors, civil society actors, transnational activists. We will also explore the meanings of war and human rights in political, cultural, and artistic expression.

In a first module of the course, we do intensive readings in common. In a second module, we shift to a research oriented path with lighter reading assignments. In a third module, we present the results of student research.