University of Wisconsin–Madison
Department of History

History 701
HISTORY IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE:
Globalization and the “People without History”

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Office hours:
Wednesday 10-12 noon (sign-up)
Wednesday 1-2 p.m. (walk-in)

Class email: history701-1-f06@lists.wisc.edu

Course goals:
This seminar, which was created by the History Department in 2003 for all entering graduate
students, has three broad goals: 1. To nudge you toward thinking about your work in broader perspective
from your very first semester here, by raising methodological and conceptual problems/questions/issues
relating to the effective use of global perspectives and offering examples of historical projects undertaken in
this manner; 2. By introducing you to faculty from outside your program of study, to encourage you to
draw on the rich faculty resources of the entire department in pursuing your work here; 3. To help you get
to know other members of your cohort, across programs of study, in order to foster a stronger intellectual
and personal community among graduate students. Because the seminar is a 1-credit course and meets 50
minutes a week, we can only make a beginning toward these ambitious objectives. Our group is large
(30+) and our discussions must necessarily be illustrative and suggestive rather than comprehensive. Like
every course you will take while you’re here, what you get out of this seminar will directly depend on the
investment you make in it.

Class mechanics:
We will meet on Thursdays in the Curti Lounge (except as noted below) from 12:05 to 12:55.
Please arrive a few minutes early so that we can begin on time. Most seminars will feature faculty from
different departmental programs discussing a topic and/or methodology important to studying the history of
social majorities or large groups in a global perspective. I’ll post the assignments on our electronic reserves
pages (or an alternative online method) at least a few days ahead of the session in which they’ll be
discussed. Reading assignments will generally consist of one to three articles or chapters chosen by the
visiting faculty. The visiting faculty will speak for twenty minutes or so and then will moderate a
discussion on the day topic/readings. These discussions should give you a chance not only to clarify points
in the readings but also to inquire about their broader implications for other fields of history.

We will not meet on October 5. I am canceling seminar on this date to give you time (at some
point in the semester) to attend a lecture not principally sponsored by the history department on some topic
that raises global implications for your own work. Please write up a two-page discussion of the lecture and
of its usefulness to your own current or future work. (Please include the title, date, time, place, and
sponsorship of the lecture, as well as the name of the speaker.)
Class schedule

September 7 - Introductions


September 14 - Professor Neil Kodesh, “Re-writing Global Narratives”


September 21 - Professor David McDonald, “A Storied Legacy: The University of Wisconsin Department of History”

Readings *TBA*.

September 28 - Professor Will Jones, “Race and Nation in U.S. Labor History”


October 5 - No meeting today.

October 12 Professor Florencia Mallon, “Indigenous History as Comparative and Transnational History”


October 19 - Discussion of Curti Lectures

No readings due today.
October 26 - Professor Francine Hirsch, "Rethinking the Modern History of Human Rights


November 2 - Professor Florence Bernault, “Globalization as Moral Reconfiguration: Colonial Fantasies in Equatorial Africa”


November 9 - Professor Ned Blackhawk, “Reconceptualizing U.S. ‘Colonial’ History”


November 16 - Professor Thomas Archdeacon, “Contemporary Immigration and the Rethinking of Immigration History”

  Readings TBA.

November 30 - Professor Laird Boswell, “What is Property and Why does it Matter?”


December 7, Professor Scarano, “Caribbean Proto-Peasants and the History of New World Enslavement”


December 14 - Parting thoughts: a collective reflection.