



History 701 **History in a Global Perspective**

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-3:00 and by appointment

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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 a global perspective from your very first semester here, by raising methodological and conceptual problems/questions/issues relating to the effective use of global perspectives, and by offering examples of historical projects undertaken from a global perspective;
2. To introduce 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 each other, across programs of study, 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 (35 or so) 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 consist of a faculty member or two, from different geographical areas of the world, discussing a topic and/or methodology important to studying history in a global perspective. I'll distribute reading assignments a week in advance. They will generally consist of a couple of articles chosen by the visiting faculty. The visiting faculty will speak for twenty minutes or so and then will moderate a discussion on the day's 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 6. 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 8: Introductions

September 15: What's So Wrong with the Nation as a Category of Historical Analysis?

Guest Faculty: Professor David McDonald, Modern Europe; Russia to 1917

Wednesday, September 21: The Empire as a Category of Analysis

Guest Faculty: Professor Louise Young, East Asia; Japan since 1868; Foreign Relations; Social & Cultural History

Professor Francine Hirsch, Modern Europe; Russian and Soviet History

September 29: Internationalizing History/Internationalizing People

Guest Faculty: Professor Thomas Archdeacon, United States, Immigration & Assimilation

Professor James Sweet, Africa & Latin America; African Diaspora; Brazil

October 6: Seminar will not meet.

October 13: Identities Crossing Borders

Guest Faculty: Professor Cindy I-Fen Cheng, Asian American History & Culture; Cold War Culture; Comparative Racial Formations; Gender; Sexuality; Nationality

Professor Brett Sheehan, East Asia; Modern China

October 20: Race, Place and Memory

Guest Faculty: Professor Camille Guerin-Gonzales, Transnational & Comparative Working-Class History; Comparative Race & Nationalisms; Latin@ Studies in Comparative Perspective

Professor Steve Stern, Latin America, especially Colonial, Andes, Mexico, Chile

October 27: Checking In. (An informal conversation about how you're all doing. I'll provide pizza. You bring your own drink/extras.)

November 3: Doing Environmental History, Doing Global History

Guest Faculty: Professor William Cronon, United States; Western & Environmental History; Historical Geography

November 7, 8, 9: History Department Curti Lectures (*Please try to attend all lectures.*)

Paul Boyer, "Apocalypse Then, Apocalypse Now: Bible-Prophesy Belief in American History"

November 10: Discussion of Curti Lectures from a Global Perspective

Guest Faculty: Professor David Morgan, North Africa and The Middle East; Islam

November 17: Conceiving a Transnational Project

Guest Faculty: Professor Suzanne Desan, Early Modern Europe; Old Regime & Revolutionary France

December 1: Writing New Master Narratives from a Global Perspective

Guest Faculty: Professor Sarah Thal, East Asia; Religion & Politics in Japanese History; 19th-Century Japan

Professor Neil Kodesh, Precolonial East & Southern Africa

December 8: Challenges of Teaching Transnationally

Guest Faculty: Professor Florencia Mallon, Modern Latin America; Gender, Ethnicity, Class; Indigenous History

Professor Lou Roberts, Modern Europe; Women & Gender; France

December 15: Conclusions