

HIST 608: COLLOQUIUM IN WORLD HISTORY

Prof. Ian F. McNeely – University of Oregon – Winter 2010

Meeting times: F 2-5 in 375* MCK
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*or 345 MCK if 375 MCK is booked

Description

This colloquium serves as an introduction to the field of world history. It is organized around research methodologies modeled by exemplary monographs. It also features sustained discussion of the teaching and professional practice of world history. The aim of the course is to demonstrate the intellectual rigor of a field traditionally marginalized in the discipline of history.

Relatively few practicing historians identify themselves primarily as world historians, but many are asked to offer world history courses when they become college or secondary school teachers. Many, too, engage in transnational and/or comparative research. And all can benefit from the novel perspectives that this burgeoning field offers, not to mention simple exposure to places and times remote from their own specialized areas of interest.

We begin the course with the history of the field during week 1. During weeks 2-7 we take up a series of monographs, each typically contextualized by a few short articles. Each monograph exemplifies a particular method its author has adopted for tackling a problem of global scope. Course discussions will be geared toward analytical reading and critique of these monographs, developing skills which can be readily applied to other fields of history.

In the weeks 8-10, we will turn squarely to issues of pedagogy and professionalization. Given the newness of the field and its growth in response to current trends such as globalization and the critique of Western Civilization, practical issues that arise in teaching often intersect with sophisticated debates both inside and outside the discipline.

Requirements

- Six 3-4 page analytical response papers due each week in class from 1/15-2/19 and critiquing the monograph under discussion (10% each)

- Complete syllabus for a world history college course on a time and theme and at a level of your choice, explicated in a 10-15 page addendum and verbally defended before the class (40%)
- I assume that every student will be a vigorous class participant.

Schedule

Introduction

1/8 (class cancelled)

1/15 History of the field

- Ross E. Dunn, *The New World History: A Teacher's Companion* (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000), 1-108 (esp. introduction, Allardyce, Lockard, McNeill)
- Patrick Manning, *Navigating World History: Historians Create a Global Past* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003), 3-120

Vision and method in world history

1/22 Abstracting and conceptualizing

- Marshall Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam: Conscience and History in a World Civilization* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974), vol. 1, 22-186; vol. 2, 3-11; vol. 3, 3-27
- Dunn, *New World History*, 113-23, 161-97

1/29 Particularizing and individualizing

- Linda Colley, *The Ordeal of Elizabeth Marsh: A Woman in World History* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2007)
- Dunn, *New World History*, 441-480

2/5 Encompassing the world as a system

- Fernand Braudel, *Civilization and Capitalism, 15th-18th Century* (New York: Harper & Row, 1981-84), vol. 3 ("The Perspective of the World") (about 200 pp. TBA)
- Dunn, *New World History*, 225-88 (esp. Wallerstein, Braudel, Frank)

2/12 Privileging cross-cultural interactions

- Lauren Benton, *Law and Colonial Cultures: Legal Regimes in World History, 1400-1900* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002)
- Dunn, *New World History*, 376-84, 414-21

2/19 Tracking a global phenomenon

- Adam McKeown, *Chinese Migrant Networks and Cultural Change: Peru, Chicago and Hawaii, 1900-1936* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001)
- Dunn, *New World History*, 289-376, 394-406

2/26 Explaining surprising parallels

- Jeremy Suri, *Power and Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Détente* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2003)
- Dunn, *New World History*, 481-550

The pedagogy and profession of world history

3/5 Designing a world history syllabus

- Roundtable of UO faculty in world history (Pope, Ostler, McGowen, Mitchell)

3/12 World history as a research field

- Manning, *Navigating World History*, 183-326
- Discussion of syllabi (begin)

3/19 The future of the field

- Manning, *Navigating World History*, 327-78
- Discussion of syllabi (finish)