

History 514 (Spring 2009)
Topical Field Course in World History

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:30-3:30

Course Content and Format: This course focuses mainly on the literature associated with the 'new world history movement' that has grown since the 1970s as well as on other writings relevant to world history that have been published in the last two decades or so. We will normally read and discuss one significant book or the equivalent per week, along with a related article. The discussions will be initiated and given particular focus through oral presentations made by students participating in the seminar. The various books under discussion are both individual contributions to scholarship and vehicles for the exploration of broader historiographical and theoretical issues and trends. Students are invited to pursue their own particular interests in the subject in a research essay, which may relate to their thesis or dissertation work.

Forms of Assessment

Essay	48%
Weekly analysis / assessment (300-400 words)(x 5)	15%
Oral reports on readings (x 3)	8% in total
Book review presentation	3%
Class presentation on essay topic	6%
Class participation	20%

Deadlines: Essays are due on 13 April, unless otherwise agreed. Weekly analyses and book review synopses are normally due each Tuesday after class.

Course Books Available in the Bookstore

Jerry H. Bentley. *Old World Encounters. Cross-Cultural Contacts and Exchanges in Pre-modern Times*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Gregory Blue, Martin Bunton and Ralph Croizier (eds) *Colonialism and the Modern World: Selected Studies*. White Plains NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2002.

Mike Davis. *Late Victorian Holocausts. El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World*. London: Verso, 2001. [ISBN: 1 85984 739 0 (pbk.)]

Massimo Livi-Bacci. *A Concise History to World Population*. (Carl Ipsen, trans.). 3rd edition. London: Blackwell, 2001.

John Robert McNeill. *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World*. New York : W.W. Norton & Company, 2001

Arnold Pacey. *Technology in World Civilization. A Thousand Year History* . Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1991.

Kenneth Pomeranz. *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 2001.

Assignments:

1) Essay: Essays are to be 4500 - 6000 words in length (i.e. ca. 15 to 20 pages). You have broad leeway in the choice of a topic, so long as it has a clear global, international or comparative character. In the past, three kinds of study have most clearly fit the bill, namely, those that:

- (a) Explore cross-cultural themes (e.g. the diffusion of Buddhism from India to Japan; imperialism; the spread of modern free trade policies; 19th-century trans-oceanic migration; the growth of international labour or environmental movements, etc.).
- (b) Provide a comparative analysis of a phenomenon in different settings (e.g. the growth of nationalism; the structure of 19th-century slave families in Brazil and the USA; the construction of official 'customary traditions' in different colonial setting; differential integration of women into the waged workforce; imperial decline).
- (c) Examine an historiographical approach related to world and comparative history (e.g. the approaches of major authors like Ibn Khaldun, Voltaire, Marx, Nehru, W.H. McNeill, the *Annales* school, Landes, Geoffrey Parker, Alfred Crosby, etc.).

NOTE₁: Topics chosen for the term papers written for this course may be related to your thesis or dissertation topic, but should have a global or comparative dimension. The term paper should not simply cover an aspect of the thesis related to a single country or region.

NOTE₂: If you are not sure about which topic to choose or whether a topic you are interested in is acceptable, please discuss the matter with the instructor.

2) Weekly analysis / assessment: Over the course of the term, five of these are to be done, in weeks of your choosing. Each is to focus on an issue or theme raised by the readings, or on an aspect of the reading(s) you find significant. One way or another, normally your analysis should briefly present the author's position and comment on it.

3) Weekly presentations on readings: Two presentations of 7-10 minutes each will be made by each student. Their aim is to briefly highlight the argument, structure and major points of interest in a book, article or chapter, and to inaugurate discussion by highlighting important issues, and -- if you see fit -- suggesting points of critique.

4) Presentations of related book reviews or articles: Over the course of the term each student must give an oral presentation EITHER covering two published reviews of assigned books or chapters, OR reporting on a substantial article on an aspect of world/comparative history of interest to the student. The latter option may involve an article that complements a set readings for a given week. In either case, the oral presentations (of ca. 10 min.) should be concise and to the point, and a short written synopsis (100-150 words) should be handed in after class.

Statement on Plagiarism: Don't!! Copying the work of another and presenting it as your own is a grave breach of academic standards. Feel free to talk about your work and ideas with others. Receiving feedback from others is fine, within reason, in polishing written work. However, students are obliged to do their own written assignments and not present as theirs work that has been substantially produced by someone else. Graduate students are expected to meet professional standards of citation and acknowledge all material quoted directly or paraphrased from other sources. Infringing these standards is liable to incur the penalties stated in the UVic Calendar including failure in the course and expulsion from the university. See the Uvic University Calendar for 2008-09, pp. 33-34.

Course Schedule: Readings and Discussions

5 January: Introductory Session

In-Class Reading: R.I. Moore, 'World History' in: Michael Bentley (ed), *Companion to Historiography* (London: Routledge, 1997), pp. 941-59.

12 January: Approaches to World History

Marshall Hodgson, 'The Interrelation of Societies in History' [1963], in: M. Hodgson, *Rethinking World History* (Cambridge University Press, 1993), pp. 3-28.

William McNeill, 'The Changing Shape of World History', *History and Theory* (1995), no. 3, pp. 8-26.

Philip Pomper, 'World History and its Critics', *History and Theory* (1995), no. 3, pp. 1-7.

Samuel P. Huntington. ch. 2 'Civilizations in History and Today' and ch. 12 'The West, Civilizations and Civilization', in: *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the World Order*. (New York: Touchstone, 1996), pp. 40-55 and 301-321.

Immanuel Wallerstein, 'World-System Analysis' and 'Hold the Tiller Firm', in: *The Essential Wallerstein* (New York: The New Press, 2000), pp. 129-60.

Arif Dirlik, 'Confounding Metaphors, Inventions of the World: What is World History For?' in: Benedikt Shuchtey and Eehardt Fuchs (eds.). *Writing World History, 1800-2000*. London: Oxford University Press & the German Historical Institute London, 2003 ; pp. 91-133.

Jerry H. Bentley, 'Myths, Wagers, and Some Moral Implications of World History,' *Journal of World History*, vol. 16, no. 1 (March 2005), pp. 51-82.

19 January: Global Demography: - the Longue Durée and Charting the Future?

Massimo Livi-Bacci *A Concise History to World Population* (London: Blackwell, 2001).

PLUS, Amartya Sen, 'Population: Delusion or Reality', *New York Review of Books* (22 Sept 1994), pp. 62-71, AND/OR

Matthew Connelly, 'Population Control is History: New Perspectives on the International Campaign to Limit Population Growth,' *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 45 (2003), no. 1, pp. 122-147. [available online via UVic Gateway]

26 January: Towards a Global History of Technology and Science.

Arnold Pacey, *Technology in World Civilization* (Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1991).

Steve Fuller, 'Prolegomena to a World History of Science', in: S. Irfan Habib and Dhruv Raina (eds). *Situating the History of Science* (Delhi: OUP, 1999); pp. 114-152.

2 February: Cross-Cultural Contacts and Influences in Antiquity and the Middle Ages.

Jerry Bentley. *New World Encounters* (Oxford: OUP, 1993).

Janet L. Abu-Lughod, 'The World System in the Thirteenth Century: Dead-end or Precursor?' in Adas (ed), *Islamic and European Expansion* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1993), pp. 75-103.

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9 February: The Birth of the Modern World (1): A 'European Miracle'?

David Landes, *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations*. (Norton, 1998), pp. 3-59.

E.L. Jones, *The European Miracle* (2nd ed., Cambridge U.P., 1987), pp. x-xxxi & 225-238.

Eric R. Wolf. *Europe and the People Without History* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1990), chapters one & three, pp. 3-23 & 73-100.

William McNeill, 'The Age of the Gunpowder Empires, 1450-1800', in: Adas (ed) *Islamic and European Expansion*, pp. 103-141.

Alfred Crosby, 'The Columbian Voyages, the Columbia Exchange, and Their Historians', in: Adas (ed), *Islamic and European Expansion*, pp. 141-65.

16 February: READING BREAK

23 February: The Birth of the Modern World (2):

Kenneth Pomeranz, from: *The Great Divergence: China, Europe and the Making of the Modern World Economy*. Princeton University Press, 2000.

P. Vries, 'Are Coal and Colonies Really Crucial? Kenneth Pomeranz and the Great Divergence', in: *Journal of World History*, vol. 12, no. 2, pp. 407-446.

2 March: Colonialism and Its Legacies

Blue, Bunton and Croizier (eds) *Colonialism and the Modern World. Selected Studies*. M.E. Sharpe, 2002.

Mahmoud Mamdani. 'Introduction: Thinking through Africa's Impasse', in: *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), pp. 3-34.

9 March: Victorian Imperialism and the Environment

Mike Davis. *Late Victorian Holocausts. El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World*. London: Verso, 2001.

plus an article to be determined

16 March: To Be Determined

23 March: Final Readings (TBD) and Project Presentations (1)

30 March: Project Presentations (2)