WOH 5932: Topics in World History

Thursdays, 3-6 pm   Fall 2019

**DESCRIPTION**

This seminar introduces graduate students to the growing and exciting bod(ies) of scholarship known as world/global history. As we shift our attention from the nation-state to other geographic units (transnational or comparative, empires, oceanic shores, planet Earth), we will emphasize movement, contact, exchange, and systemic transformation. Our readings explore the flow of peoples, ideas, institutions, commodities, and diseases across the globe, from the early modern to the modern world. This course fulfills the core requirement in the graduate WOH minor.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students will:

1) Gain in-depth knowledge of world/global historiography, including the different methods, theories, and interpretive paradigms that inform it;
2) Recognize, compare, and analyze the diversity of human experience across space and time;
3) Critically examine, interpret, and explain how individual, political, cultural, economic, and religious experiences and structures shaped global history;
4) Strengthen oral presentation and writing skills, especially with regard to evaluating the extant historical scholarship and constructing an argument based on evidence; and
5) Apply knowledge of the field to develop an individual pedagogical approach to teaching world history at the undergraduate level.

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADES**

1) Weekly reaction essays (2 pages); identify one primary source from each reading that would be useful for teaching on the theme [10 total, 20% of grade] – due by 9 am on class days; submit to canvas discussion board.
2) Presentation on one week’s reading incorporating a second new reading, preferably from your field, + longer reaction essay that engages both sources in dialogue (4 pages) [10%] – due by 9 am on presentation day.
3) World history syllabus shell (including attention to dighum) [20%] – due 11/25 at 9 am.
4) Thematic essay examining the literature in your field (8-10 pages) [30%] – due 12/11 at 9 am.

5) Active participation in class sessions [20%]
   a. Students are expected to prepare for and attend every class session other than in case of documented illness or emergency, consistent with university policies found at: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Grade points are assigned consistent with university policy: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-gradingpolicies/

Late assignments will not be accepted except through prior arrangement with the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTS

These books are on reserve at Library West, or are available as eBooks through the library website. You may also choose to purchase your own copy through the UF Bookstore or an online retailer, or borrow through Borrow Direct or Interlibrary Loan.

Frederick Cooper and Jane Burbank, Empires in World History: Power and the Politics of Difference (Princeton UP, 2010)


Sven Beckert, Empire of Cotton: A Global History (Alfred A. Knopf, 2014)


Shelly Chan, Diaspora’s Homeland: Modern China in the Age of Global Migration (Duke UP, 2018)


Daniel Immerwahr, How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States (Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2019)

**SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1  AUGUST 22  BY WAY OF BEGINNING**

(Class ends at 4:45pm in order to accommodate the department reception)

**Reading:**

Kenneth Pomeranz, “Histories for a Less National Age,” AHR 119/1 (Feb 2014), 1-22, or, in talk form: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVei7p2x3I0

http://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/may-2013/its-a-small-world-after-all#

AHA Roundtable, “It’s a Small World After All,” AHA Perspectives on History June 2013
https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/summer-2013-x41476

**In-Class Activity:** Explore Journal of World History, Journal of Global History, World History Association

Introducing DigHumBytes:

http://www.globalmiddleages.org/

http://atlas.lib.uiowa.edu/

**WEEK 2  AUGUST 29  EMERGENCE OF THE FIELD & KEY DEBATES**

Jerry H. Bentley, “The Task of World History,” in The Oxford Handbook of World History (2011) [pdf to be distributed]


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<th>WEEK 3</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER 5</th>
<th>RETHINKING SPACE I: EMPIRES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick Cooper and Jane Burbank, <em>Empires in World History: Power and the Politics of Difference</em></td>
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<td>DigHumByte: Seshat, <a href="http://seshatdatabase.info/">http://seshatdatabase.info/</a></td>
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<th>WEEK 4</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER 12</th>
<th>RETHINKING SPACE II: OCEANS</th>
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<td>Fahad Bishara, <em>A Sea of Debt: Law and Economic Life in the Western Indian Ocean, 1780-1950</em></td>
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<th>WEEK 5</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER 19</th>
<th>GLOBAL MOVEMENT I: COMMODITIES</th>
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<td>DigHumByte: <a href="http://www.slate.com/articles/life/the_history_of_american_slavery/2015/06/animated_interactive_of_the_history_of_the_atlantic_slave_trade.html?fbclid=IwAR01VnJEsS6YVS1w0ug0GD99t-rWC7Zg5xvqS19FudVz18GM-I71ggiO2TA">http://www.slate.com/articles/life/the_history_of_american_slavery/2015/06/animated_interactive_of_the_history_of_the_atlantic_slave_trade.html?fbclid=IwAR01VnJEsS6YVS1w0ug0GD99t-rWC7Zg5xvqS19FudVz18GM-I71ggiO2TA</a></td>
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| WEEK 6 | SEPTEMBER 26 | GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS I: ENVIRONMENT |
Gregory T. Cushman, *Guano and the Opening of the Pacific World: A Global Ecological History*


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### WEEK 7  
**OCTOBER 3**  
**GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS II: TECHNOLOGY**

Vanessa Ogle, *The Global Transformation of Time, 1870-1950*

DigHumByte: Podcast – BBC RADIO *A History of the World in 100 Objects* [listen to one episode](https://oceanicexchanges.org)  
[http://www.environmentandsociety.org/exhibitions/energy-transitions](http://www.environmentandsociety.org/exhibitions/energy-transitions)

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### WEEK 8  
**OCTOBER 10**  
**GLOBAL IDEAS I: RACE**


DigHumByte:  
[https://globalsegregation.com/](https://globalsegregation.com/)  

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### WEEK 9  
**(OCTOBER 17: RESCHEDULE CLASS)**  
**GLOBAL IDEAS II: RELIGION**

Cemil Aydin, *The Idea of the Muslim World: A Global Intellectual History*

DigHumByte:  

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### WEEK 10  
**OCTOBER 24**  
**GLOBAL MOVEMENT II: MIGRATION AND DIASPORAS**

Shelly Chan, *Diaspora’s Homeland: Modern China in the Age of Global Migration*

DigHumByte:  
WEEK 11  OCTOBER 31  GLOBAL IDEAS III: GENDER AND MODERNITY

Alys Eve Weinbaum et al, eds., *The Modern Girl Around the World: Consumption, Modernity, and Globalization*

DigHumByte: Women in World History http://chnm.gmu.edu/wwh/

WEEK 12  NOVEMBER 7  GLOBAL IDEAS IV: DECOLONIZATION

Michael Goebel, *Anti-Imperial Metropolis: Interwar Paris and the Seeds of Third World Nationalism*


Episode 11: The Wretched of the Earth, https://imperialglobalexeter.com/talking-empire/

WEEK 13  NOVEMBER 14  EMPIRES REVISITED

Daniel Immerwahr, *How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States*

DigHumByte:

WEEK 14  NOVEMBER 21  TEACHING THE WORLD

Antoinette Burton, *A Primer for Teaching World History: Ten Design Principles*


In-Class Activity: Workshop course shells
UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.
- Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.
- UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (scs.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.
- Health and Wellness
  - U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
  - Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
  - Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/. University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
  - UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.
- Academic Resources
  - E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
  - Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/.
  - Library Support: cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
  - Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/.
  - Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/
- Student Complaints On-Campus: sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code/student-conduct-code/
- On-Line Students Complaints: distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/