Course Description

Over the last two decades, spurred on in part by the Organization of American Historians’ “La Pietra Report” (2000), modern U.S. historiography has moved in an increasingly transnational direction. This “America and the World” scholarship has taken many forms, and it has built upon important past examples, but it has been united by a commitment to moving beyond nationalist and exceptionalist narratives that too often have portrayed U.S. history as having transpired in isolation from the rest of the world. This semester we will be both exploring and adding to that scholarship. Your main task in this course will be to produce an article- or chapter-length work of original scholarship rooted in primary research. Your goal should be to produce an article of publishable quality. To that end, assigned readings will be lighter than in colloquium, and they will be concentrated in the first half of the semester. Our discussions will mix historiography and theory with more practical questions about the research and writing process. Success in this class will also be a cooperative enterprise, as each of you will be responsible for providing constructive and meaningful critiques of each others’ work throughout the semester.

Course Requirements

- **Research Paper** – The bulk of your grade in this course will be based upon my evaluation of your research essay. I expect it to be substantial (~30 pp or 10,000 words), thoroughly researched and documented, well supported theoretically and historiographically, clearly and effectively organized, and well written.

- **Other Written Assignments** – During the first half of the semester, I will ask you to complete several short writing assignments, some of which will be incorporated into your research papers and others of which will not. On several occasions, I will ask you to circulate these to the entire class prior to our weekly meeting, in which case they will need to be sent to me electronically at some point prior to the class meeting. These writing assignments will also be an important part of how I evaluate your performance in the course.

- **Discussion** – You will also be evaluated on your contributions to class discussions and the quality of the feedback that you provide to your classmates. Consistent attendance is, of course, critical.

- **Grade Breakdown**: Research essay = 75%; short assignments and participation = 25%

Required Readings

- Thomas Bender, ed., *Rethinking American History in a Global Age*.
Suggested Readings

- Strunk and White, *Elements of Style* – This is a classic and should be right next to the dictionary on everyone’s writing desk (though also understand that some contest its grammatical wisdom).
- *Chicago Manual of Style Online* – This is the standard citation format for historical research and I expect papers to adhere to its style.

Course Schedule – Part I

**January 17 – Rethinking American History in a Global Age I**

Read:
- Bender, *Rethinking American History*, 1-191

Writing Assignment: Please come to our first class with a one-page statement of topic for your research paper, including your major research question and an outline of the primary source materials that you will consult in the process of writing the paper.

**January 24 – Rethinking American History in a Global Age II**

Read:
- Bender, *Rethinking American History*, 193-396

Writing Assignment: Having read the Bender collection and ancillary readings, please prepare a 2-3 page statement on what you consider to be the major premises of the project to situate U.S. history in a global context, with a particular focus on how you see this project intersecting with your particular research focus. Think about this as a short section you might insert as a theoretical discussion in the larger paper. **Due Friday, January 26, by 5 pm via email.**

**January 31 – Research Proposal Workshop**

Writing Assignment: Prepare a draft proposal of the research project that you will undertake over the course of the semester. Be sure to clearly explain the topic, your central research question(s), your methodology (how you will answer your central question), and the primary sources that you will utilize. **These are limited to 5 pages max, double-spaced!** Research proposals will be pre-circulated via email, and we will spend this class period discussing and critiquing everyone’s proposal. Please have them to me by **5 pm on Monday, January 29** so that everyone can read them over prior to class.
**February 7 – The Nation, the Region, and the World**

**Read:**
- Kate Brown, “Gridded Lives: Why Kazakhstan and Montana are Nearly the Same Place,” *AHR* 106, 1 (February 2001).

**Writing Assignment:** Choose a journal that you would consider submitting your research paper to and spend some time with it, looking through the tables of contents, editorial guidelines, etc. Then write a two-page paper on the journal that spells out your sense of the types of articles it publishes, who the journal’s audience is, and what it would take to get published in the journal. I will ask everyone to inform me of their chosen journal ahead of time so that we cover as many as possible.

**February 14 – Immigration and America’s Imperial Moment?**

**Read:**

**Writing Assignment:** Submit a preliminary bibliography of secondary works that will form the core of your literature review.

**February 21 – The World Wars and Interwar Internationalism**

**Read:**

**February 28 – Postwar/Cold War/Globalization**

**Read:**
- Megan Black, “Interior’s Exterior: The State, Mining Companies, and Resources Ideologies in the Point Four Program,” *Diplomatic History* 40, 1 (July 2016)

**Writing Assignment:** Submit a literature review of no more than **5 pages** that frames and discusses your research paper in terms of other related secondary literature.

**March 7 – Tore Olsson Visit**

**Read:**
- Olsson, *Agrarian Crossings*

**March 14-April 18 – NO CLASS MEETINGS – I will be contacting each of you to set up appointments to discuss your research and writing progress.**

**April 25 – Workshop of Draft Essays I**

**May 2 – Workshop of Draft Essays II**

* **Final Drafts are due on May 9 by 5pm.**