

University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Department of History

**History 701**  
**HISTORY IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE:**  
**Globalization and the “People without History”**

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*Office hours:*  
Wednesday 10-12 noon (sign-up)  
Wednesday 1-2 p.m. (walk-in)  
Class email: [history701-1-f06@lists.wisc.edu](mailto:history701-1-f06@lists.wisc.edu)

**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 broader perspective from your very first semester here, by raising methodological and conceptual problems/questions/issues relating to the effective use of global perspectives and offering examples of historical projects undertaken in this manner; 2. By introducing 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 other members of your cohort, across programs of study, in order 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 (30+) 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 feature faculty from different departmental programs discussing a topic and/or methodology important to studying the history of social majorities or large groups in a global perspective. I'll post the assignments on our electronic reserves pages (or an alternative online method) at least a few days ahead of the session in which they'll be discussed. Reading assignments will generally consist of one to three articles or chapters chosen by the visiting faculty. The visiting faculty will speak for twenty minutes or so and then will moderate a discussion on the day 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 5. 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 7 - Introductions

Kerwin Lee Klein, "In Search of Narrative Mastery: Postmodernism and the People without History," *History and Theory* 34, 4 (December 1995): 275-298.

September 14 - Professor Neil Kodesh, "Re-writing Global Narratives"

Steven Feierman, "African Histories and the Dissolution of World History," in Robert H. Bates, V.Y. Mudimbe, and Jean O'Barr (eds), *Africa and the Disciplines: The Contributions of Research in Africa to the Social Sciences and Humanities* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993), 167-212.

September 21 - Professor David McDonald, "A Storied Legacy: The University of Wisconsin Department of History"

Readings *TBA*.

September 28 - Professor Will Jones, "Race and Nation in U.S. Labor History"

Marcus Rediker, "The Revenge of Crispus Attucks; or, The Atlantic Challenge to American Labor History," *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, 1 (Winter 2004), 35-45.

Lisa Lowe, "The International within the National: American Studies and Asian American Critique," *Cultural Critique* 40 (Fall 1998): 29-47. Republished in *The Futures of American Studies*, Donald Pease and Robyn Weigman, eds. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003.

James Green, "The Globalization of a Memory: The Enduring Remembrance of the Haymarket Martyrs around the World," *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas* 2, 4 (2005): 11-24.

October 5 - *No meeting today.*

October 12 Professor Florencia Mallon, "Indigenous History as Comparative and Transnational History"

Les Field, "Blood and Traits: Preliminary Observations on the Analysis of Mestizo and Indigenous Identities in Latin America vs. the U.S.," *Journal of Latin American Anthropology* 7, 1 (2002): 2-33.

Andrea Muehlebach, "'Making Place' at the United Nations: Indigenous Cultural Politics at the U.N. Working Group on Indigenous Populations," *Cultural Anthropology* 16, 3 (2001): 415-48.

October 19 - *Discussion of Curti Lectures*

No readings due today.

October 26 - Professor Francine Hirsch, "Rethinking the Modern History of Human Rights

Mark Mazower, "An International Civilization? Empire, Internationalism and the Crisis of the Mid-Twentieth Century," *International Affairs* 82, 3 (2006): 553-566.

Micheline R. Ishay, *The History of Human Rights* (Berkeley and LA, 2004), pp. 2-14 (Introduction).

November 2 - Professor Florence Bernault, "Globalization as Moral Reconfiguration: Colonial Fantasies in Equatorial Africa"

F. Bernault, "Body, Power and Sacrifice in Equatorial Africa," *Journal of African History* 47,2 (2006).

November 9 - Professor Ned Blackhawk, "Reconceptualizing U.S. 'Colonial' History"

Amy Kaplan, "The Imperial Routes of Mark Twain," ch. 2 in *The Anarchy of Empire in the Making of U.S. Culture* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002), 51-91.

November 16 - Professor Thomas Archdeacon, "Contemporary Immigration and the Rethinking of Immigration History"

Readings *TBA*.

November 30 - Professor Laird Boswell, "What is Property and Why does it Matter?"

Katherine Verdery, *The Vanishing Hectare: Property and Value in Postsocialist Transylvania* (Cornell University Press, 2003). Preface + Introduction "Property, Value and Global Transformations" [pp. xiii-xiv; 1-31].

Katherine Verdery, "The Elasticity of Land: Problems of Property Restitution in Transylvania," *Slavic Review* 43 (1994): 1071-1109.

December 7, Professor Scarano, "Caribbean Proto-Peasants and the History of New World Enslavement"

Besson, Jean. "Empowering and Engendering Hidden Histories in Caribbean Peasant Communities," in *History and Histories in the Caribbean*, ed. Thomas Bremer and Ulrich Fleischmann. *Bibliotheca Americana*, Vol. 70 (Frankfurt: Vervuert, 2001), 69-113.

December 14 - *Parting thoughts: a collective reflection*.