

## SEMINARS IN HISTORY: AN AGE OF EMPIRES

HIST301.001 Fall 2009 W 2:00-4:00 p.m.

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Office Hours: MWF 9:00-10:30 a.m., or by appointment

Course Description: History 301 is a seminar in historical method, designed to engage students with the practice and craft of history. Our topic for the semester, “An Age of Empires,” examines the extension of Western presence and influence in the non-Western world during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the implications of that presence; it will serve as an entry point for discussions of historical philosophies and perspectives and the practicalities of historical research and writing. In addition, each member of the seminar will conduct research on a subject related to the course topic and produce a piece of original historical writing.

Course Materials: The texts for this class are:

- Sven Lindquist, *“Exterminate All the Brutes”* (New Press, 1992)
- Scott B. Cook, *Colonial Encounters in the Age of High Imperialism* (Longman 1996)
- Daniel R. Headrick, *The Tools of Empire* (Oxford, 1981)
- Diana Hacker, *A Pocket Style Manual* (Bedford St. Martins—5<sup>th</sup> ed, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. also OK)

These materials are available at the UTC bookstore. Additional readings will be indicated in the class schedule. They can be found on UTC Online, on Lupton Library e-reserve, or online. Students should come to class prepared to discuss each session’s assigned readings.

Expectations and Assessment: Your grade in this course will be calculated as follows:

- Research Paper: 55%
- Short Essay: 10%
- Brief Written Assignments (collective): 15%
- Class Participation: 20%

**Class Participation** includes your preparedness for class meetings, your informed and respectful participation in discussions and exercises, and the quality of your critiques of your classmates’ work.

**Brief Written Assignments** are due at a number of points along the road to your research paper. They include an initial topic proposal, an introductory paragraph, an outline, an annotated bibliography, a concluding paragraph, and a rough draft. The due dates for these items can be found in the class schedule, and they will be explained in more detail during the course.

The **Short Essay** is a preliminary exploration of your chosen research topic. It is due in Week 5 and will be explained in more detail during the course.

Finally, your **Research Paper** is the capstone of your participation in this course. It will be 15-25 pages long and discuss a topic of your choosing that relates in some way to our course theme. It is due at our last class meeting on November 18.

You must satisfactorily complete all of these course components and submit all written assignments in order to pass this course. In addition, you will need to meet two other expectations:

1) Attendance. This course meets 14 times over the semester. It is based on discussion and hands-on work. Therefore, it is very important that you attend every session. Absences will be excused only in case of emergency, in which case you should be prepared to offer a documented valid reason (i.e., a doctor's note, mechanic's bill, evidence of a death, letter from appropriate authority, or other related primary documents depending on the specific situation) upon request, preferably before the class meeting to be missed.

2) Compliance with deadlines. A good part of the discussion we'll do in the course is based on material that you generate beforehand. Therefore, you need to generate material on time. Unless otherwise indicated, all written assignments are due at the start of class on the date indicated in the course schedule.

**\*\*If you fail to meet these expectations, your final course grade will be negatively impacted:**  
Unexcused absences and missed deadlines on any written assignments except the short essay, rough draft and final research paper—deduction of 2.5% (roughly equivalent to 1/4 of a letter grade) from your final course grade. Missed deadline on the short essay or rough draft—deduction of 5% (roughly equivalent to 1/2 of a letter grade) from your final course grade. Missed deadline for final research paper—deduction of 5% from your course grade *per day late*.\*\*

Statement on Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability—for example, an attention disorder such as ADD or ADHD, a learning disability, a vision or hearing problem, another physical disability or a psychiatric condition—and you think that you may need special assistance or a special accommodation for this class or any of your courses, please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (110 Frist Hall, ph. 425-4006).

### **Preliminary Class Schedule (subject to revision)**

8.19 Week 1

- Introduction to course topic and goals
- In-class film, *Guns, Germs and Steel* part 3 (analysis of secondary sources)

8.26 Week 2

- Readings: Lindqvist, parts 1 & 2; Elspeth H. Brown, "Writing about History" (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/history>)
- Primary and Secondary sources; Initial topic proposal assignment and preliminary paper assignment distributed in class

9.03 Week 3

- **Initial topic proposal due at start of class**
- Readings: Review Brown, "Writing about History"; Cook, *Colonial Encounters* ch. 1-2; Headrick, part 2.

9.09 Week 4

- Readings: Frederick Cooper, "The Rise, Fall and Rise of Colonial Studies" (available on e-reserve); Cook ch. 3, Headrick, part 1.

- 9.16 Week 5:
- Readings: Headrick, Part 3; Mike Davis, *Late Victorian Holocausts*, ch. 1 and 10 (available on e-reserve)
  - **Preliminary papers due at start of class**
- 9.23 Week 6
- Cook ch. 4; C.A. Bayley, “Nation, Empire, and Ethnicity” (available on e-reserve)
  - **In-class discussion and critique of preliminary papers**
- 9.30 Week 7
- Readings TBA
  - **Introductory paragraph for research papers due**
- 10.07 Week 8:
- Readings TBA
  - **Outlines for long papers due**
- 10.14 Week 9
- Readings TBA
  - **Annotated bibliographies for long papers due**
- 10.21 Week 10:
- Readings TBA
  - **Concluding paragraphs for long papers due**
- 10.28 Week 11:
- Readings TBA
  - **Rough drafts due at start of class**
- 11.04 Week 12
- Readings TBA
  - **In-class critiques of rough drafts; my critiques distributed**
- 11.11 Week 13
- Readings TBA
- 11.18 Week 14: **Final Papers due**
- 11.25 No class—Thanksgiving Break. We’re done.

\*\*Papers will be graded and ready for pickup on Monday, November 30 (last day of classes for the term).\*\*