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Description:  
This graduate seminar will examine major works in U.S. history with a special emphasis on those writings informed by comparative, transatlantic, and international perspectives. The focus is upon comparative revolution, global capitalism, comparative slavery, transatlantic reform movements, the historicity of nation-building, and comparative emancipation. It has three aims: to provide students with broader conceptions of American history; to encourage graduate student interest in another region, nation, or theme; to help prepare future teachers and scholars of history for the changing demands of the academic job market.

Requirements:  
Students are expected to critique common readings and present points of discussion on a weekly basis. This should help graduates to manage sizable reading loads and facilitate preparation for oral examinations.  
Depending on the size of the course, students are responsible for 3 to 5 book reviews of 500 words each. These reviews are to be submitted in writing with copies for the instructor and each class member and presented orally in class. They are intended to develop review skills, broaden class discussion, and stimulate intellectual curiosity.  
At the course end, students are required to write a historiography paper on some period or topic covered by the course that is of particular interest. It must demonstrate knowledge of broader conceptions of American history. This should improve writing skills, and encourage exploration of research and teaching interests beyond national borders.

Readings:  
The common readings for each week are marked READ, and are available in the University bookstore. Those marked with an asterisk* are available on-line. The books for review are marked REVIEW, and should be either in the library or available through inter-library loan. The review sections of the American Historical Review (AHR) and the Journal of American History provide useful critiques of many of the readings as well as model book reviews.

Meetings:  
Aug. 17: Introduction  
Aug. 24: American History Globally  
READ: NYU-OAH, La Pietra Reporti*

Aug. 31: **American Revolution in Atlantic World**
Susan Dunn, *Sister Revolutions* (1999)

Sep. 7: **Haitian Revolution in Atlantic World**
REVIEWS: C.L.R. James, *Black Jacobins* (1938)

Sep. 14: **Spanish American Revolutions**

Sep. 21: **Origins of American Capitalism I: Individual Enterprise**


Oct. 5: **Comparative Slavery**
Ira Berlin & Philip Morgan, eds., *Cultivation & Culture* (1993)
Oct. 12: **Transatlantic Reform**

Oct. 19: **Conquest of the West**
Julie Roy Jeffrey, *Converting the West* (1991)

Oct. 26: **War for Southern Independence**
William A. Freehling, *The Road to DisUnion* (1990)
Ransom, CSA

Nov. 2: **Slaves’ War for Liberty**
REVIEWS: Freedmen Southern Society Project, Univ. of Maryland, website

Nov. 9: **Republican Reconstruction**

Nov. 16: **Comparing Emancipation**

Nov. 30: **U.S. History Globally**