

HIS 723: Topics in 19<sup>th</sup> Century History  
Dr. Mark Elliott  
[me Elliot@uncg.edu](mailto:me Elliot@uncg.edu)

Fall 2011  
MHRA 1304  
Mon. 6:30-9:20

## **Selected Topics in 19th Century U.S. History:**

### **“Transnational Lives in the 19th Century”**

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

This course will introduce students to the literature on “transnationalism,” and assess the movement to internationalize the study of American history. After acquiring a theoretical and historiographical groundwork on the subject, students will turn to case studies of 19th century transnationalism by focusing on individuals whose lives crossed national borders and transcended national histories. Biography is emerging as a favorite methodology for the exploration of transnational history. Students will have an opportunity to write research papers on the transnational dimensions of 19th century individuals of their choosing. Student will use their projects to show how a transnational approach can transform stale historiographical debates and develop new inquiries into American history.

#### **GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Reading secondary sources efficiently, with an ability to identify main arguments, and critically evaluate methodologies
- Participating in sophisticated academic debates and exchanges while maintaining the requisite civility and respect for one’s colleagues.
- Delivering informative and useful oral presentations to peers.
- Formal writing in specific genres of the profession, including book reviews, reflective essays, research proposals, and presentations of research findings.
- The identification of an original topic for historical research, and the formulation of a specific plan for investigation and research that includes a preliminary hypothesis or thesis and a list of possible sources.

#### **COURSE POLICIES:**

##### **Participation:**

Attendance is mandatory. Absence from class may have an adverse impact on your participation grade. You are expected to complete each week's reading before class so that you can participate constructively in a class discussion. Your participation grade will be based on the overall *quality* of your contributions to the class—not the quantity of contributions you make—and the professionalism with which you conduct yourself in scholarly discussion and debate.

### **Presentations:**

Each student will be assigned to introduce at least one of the readings for class discussion over the course of the semester. Presentations will last from 7-10 minutes (speakers will be asked to conclude at 10 minutes). The presenter will be responsible to introduce the author, concisely summarize the argument, and raise 3-5 questions for class discussion.

### **Blackboard Discussion Forum**

The Blackboard site for the course will allow for class discussion to continue beyond the normal time/place constraints of the classroom. You are required to make at least ONE substantial comment, and ONE constructive/observational reply to another student's posting each week. A "week," for our purposes, on Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. Your forum postings will be read by the entire class, and you will receive a grade for the quality of your postings at the end of the semester.

Your "substantial comment" must address the course material in some way. It may address the upcoming week's reading. It may simply be a comment you wanted to make in class, but did not have the opportunity to make. Otherwise, it may be a reflection on an issue discussed in class, on something you read for this class, or another class, or on your own that relates to the course material in some way. Your response to another student's posting must be a thoughtful and constructive response (such as if you were having a conversation with them). The rules for use of the forum is as follows:

1. Your grade will be based on the substance of your posting which includes the thought and effort you put into it as well as the length. You can post more than twice a week, but make sure that you have at least *one substantial posting each week of at least 200 words*, and one reply.
2. You will receive a zero for the week if you fail to post . Therefore, you have a full week, including the weekend, to read the forum comments and respond to them or create new postings (Note: you do not have to be finished with your reading to make a substantial post. A reflection on any aspect or part of the reading will do fine). I will check the forum each Wed. morning to record who posted an entry for that week

(and I will monitor the board all week and post my own comments to help discussion along).

3. Maintain academic civility, use respectful language and avoid offensive remarks. Even *more* than in face-to-face debate, caution must be exercised in “virtual” debate to avoid insulting or offending others. Nothing derogatory may be said about any student or faculty member on the forum. Misuse of the forum will result in the removal of the offender from the forum discussion list, and a Failing grade for the assignment.
4. Do not use the forum to communicate private questions to me, or anyone else in the class (such as “When is the paper due?”). Send me a private e-mail for that.

### **Written Work:**

There will be two papers over the course of the semester. The first will be a book review of 1,500-2,000 words in length of a relevant work of “transnationalism” chosen from the bibliography included at the end of this syllabus. The second will be a research paper of 4,500 to 6,000 words in length. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day the paper is late. All written assignments must be completed and turned in to the professor in order to pass the class.

### **Final Grade:**

Your final grade will be based on the following formula:

- 20% Class participation (including presentations).
- 20% Blackboard Discussion
- 20% Book Review Paper.
- 10% Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography
- 30% Research Paper

### **Required Books:**

1. Bender, Thomas, *Rethinking American History in a Global Age*
2. Simon Schama, *Rough Crossings: Britain, The Slaves, and the American Revolution*
3. Martha Hodes, *The Sea Captain's Wife*
4. Rugeley, Edward B., *The Problem of Emancipation: The Caribbean Roots of the American Civil War*
5. Tyrell, Ian, *Reforming the World: the Creation of America's Moral Empire*

## **Week 1.**

## **WHAT IS TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY?**

- Aug. 22.**           **Reading:** 2006 AHR Roundtable on Transnational History; Ian Tyrell, “American Exceptionalism in the Age of International History.”
- Week 2.**           **WRITING NEW HISTORIES: VISTAS AND CAUTIONS**
- Aug. 29**           **Reading:** Bender, Thomas, ed. *Rethinking American History in a Global Age*, 1-62, 103-167, 236-273, 343-395.
- Week 3.**           **LABOR DAY NO CLASS**
- Week 4.**           **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION FROM A  
TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**
- Sept. 12**           **Reading:** Simon Schama, *Rough Crossings: Britain, The Slaves, and the American Revolution*, all.
- Week 5.**           **“NEW” BIOGRAPHY AND TRANSNATIONALISM**
- Sept. 19**           **Reading:** David Nasaw, “Historians and Biography” from AHR Roundtable  
Selections by Michael A. McDonnell, Bruce Dorsey, and Penny Russell from *Transnational Lives: Biographies of Global Modernity, 1700-Present*.  
Selections by Katherine Kish Sklar and Ellen Carol DuBois from *Women’s Rights and Transatlantic Antislavery in the Age of Emancipation*.
- Week 6.**           **A STORY WITH AN ARGUMENT**
- Sept. 26**           **Reading:** Martha Hodes, *The Sea Captain’s Wife* and “A Story with an Argument.”
- Week 7.**           **THE COMING OF THE CIVIL WAR FROM AN  
INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**
- Oct. 3**           **Reading:** Ruegamer, Edward B., *The Problem of Emancipation: The Caribbean Roots of the American Civil War*
- Week 8.**           **FALL BREAK**

- Oct. 10**            **NO CLASS**
- Assignment:** FIRST PAPER DUE no later than 9:30 pm.
- Week 9.**            **AMERICAN EMPIRE AND REFORM**
- Oct. 17**            **Reading:**     Tyrell, Ian, *Reforming the World: the Creation of America's Moral Empire*
- Week 10.**           **INTELLECTUAL HISTORY**
- Oct. 24**            **Reading:**     Selections by Marilyn Fischer, Wendy Sarvasy, and Harriet Hyman Alonso from *Jane Addams and the Practice of Democracy*  
Selections from Jane Addams, *Newer Ideals of Peace*, and *Women at the Hague*.
- Week 11.**           **ANTI-IMPERIAL INTERNATIONALISM**
- Oct. 31**            **Reading:**     Selected chapters from Amy Kaplan, *The Anarchy of Empire and the Making of U.S. Culture*.  
Selected writings by Mark Twain and W.E.B. Du Bois.
- Week 12.**           **DISCUSS RESEARCH STRATEGIES**
- Nov. 7**            **Assignment:** Annotated bibliography.
- Week 13.**           **NO CLASS**
- Nov. 14**            Individual consultations on papers.
- Week 14.**           **NO CLASS**
- Nov. 21**            Individual consultations on papers.
- Week 15 .**           **DISCUSS DRAFTS**
- Nov. 28**            Turn in and Discuss Paper drafts.
- Week 16.**           **FINAL PAPER DUE**
- Dec. 5**

**You will write a book review of one of the books below. Pick one on a subject related to your area of interest.**

#### TRANSNATIONALISM: A SHORT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bender, Thomas. *A Nation Among Nations: America's Place in World History*
- Benfey, Christopher. *The Great Wave: Gilded Age Misfits, Japanese Eccentrics, and the Opening of Old Japan.*
- Clegg, Claude A. *The Price of Liberty: African Americans and the Making of Liberia.*
- Davis, David Brion. *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World*
- Dawley, Alan. *Changing the World: American Progressives in War and Revolution*
- Gilroy, Paul. *The Black Atlantic. Modernity and Double Consciousness*
- Hochschild, Adam. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*
- Hoganson, Kristin. *Consumers' Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity, 1865-1920* (2007).
- Jacobson, Matthew. *Barbarian Virtues: The United States Encounters Foreign Peoples at Home and Abroad, 1876-1917*
- Jackson, Maurice. *Let This Voice Be Heard: Anthony Benezet, Father of Atlantic Abolitionism*
- James, Winston. *The Struggles of John Brown Russwurm: the Life and Writings of a Pan-Africanist Pioneer, 1799-1851.*
- Katz, Philip. *From Appomattox to Martemartre: Americans and the Paris Commune*
- Kenny, Gale L. *Contentious Liberties: American Abolitionists in Post-emancipation Jamaica, 1834-1866*
- Kramer, Paul. *The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States and the Philippines*
- Landers, Jane. *Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolution*
- Linebaugh, Peter, and Marcus Rediker, *The Many-Headed Hydra: The Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic*
- Love, Eric T. *Race Over Empire: Racism and U.S. Imperialism*
- McCullough, David. *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris.*
- Ninkovitch, Frank. *Global Dawn: The Cultural Foundation of American Internationalism, 1865-1890.*
- Rauchway, Eric. *Blessed Among Nations: How the World Made America*
- Rodgers, Daniel. *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age.*
- Rosenstone, Robert A. *Mirror in the shrine: American encounters with Meiji Japan*
- Scaff, Lawrence A. *Max Weber in America*
- Scott, Rebecca. *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba After Slavery*
- Sklar Katherine Kish and Stewart, James Brewer, eds. *Women's Rights and Transatlantic Antislavery in the Era of Emancipation*

Sneider, Allison. *Suffragists in an Imperial Age: U.S. Expansionism and the Woman Question, 1870-1929.*

Tyrell, Ian. *Transnational Nation: United States History in Global Perspective since 1789*

