

HIS 414 / 514 – Social History in Global Perspective Fall 2022 – Asynchronous Online Guided Learning

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Office Hours by advance appointment only, with masks
Email messages via UNCG email (not through Canvas)

Course Objectives: This course examines selected readings in social history as windows onto what is useful and distinctive about the new global history. In the mid- to late-twentieth century there were transformations in scholarship and teaching history which brought to the fore important new thematic approaches such as social history, comparative slavery, gender, area studies, environmental history, and others. Overarching and incorporating such themes led to new perspectives on historical research and practice. World historians focus on comparisons, connections, and networks viewed in large spatial scale and/or over long time periods. This semester we will explore and analyze ‘global’ as an alternative to ‘Eurocentric’ and ‘presentist’ conceptions of the human past.

Student Learning Outcomes –

On completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Explain major social and cultural effects of intercontinental maritime trades between parts of Afro-Eurasia and/or the Americas;
- Analyze major themes and debates in global historiographies;
- Formulate historical questions and design research projects that employ cross-cultural, long term, or global-scale analytical approaches.

Requirements and Grading:

This course is an intensive readings course at the graduate level. Your main requirement is to keep up with the **weekly primary source readings and short writing assignments**, while working on your **project proposal assignment** over the semester. Most of the primary sources are in print as Course Readings in Canvas via the HIS 414 or 514 course module; three others are available as streaming or online films. Selected books for the **book review assignment** are available as eBooks; some are in hard copy form on Reserve in Jackson Library (for those of you with physical access to it). We will start arrangements for the book review early in the semester (your chosen 3 options are due August 26). I will sort out which book each of you will review.

There are three main chapters or sub-headings to the course. Most weeks are devoted to a primary source with some relation to the chapter topic. You will **write a short position paper** on each of the primary source readings (or viewings) **each week**, according to the specific instructions I will send out for each one via Canvas Announcement and Assignment. These short writings will be graded as 0, 2, 4, or 6 points each, **together worth 30%** of the final grade. **They will not be graded through the Canvas ‘points’ system.**

The **book review assignment** will be handed in after Fall Break. Reviews should be organized as if presenting it to students in class, stating the author’s main purpose or argument, a summary of the primary sources and analysis, if or how it contributes to a historiographical debate, if it breaks new ground or presents an unusual or alternative perspective, its strengths, and its weaknesses. Not all of these points need to be covered, but the review should give the

reader a clear summary and overall conclusion about its merits. Instructions are available in the Canvas HIS 414 or 514 course module. This **book review is worth 30%** of the final course grade.

Outside of class, students will each develop a **research project proposal** in Comparative / World history (**worth 40% of the final course grade**). The project will include the historical problem or questions to be addressed, brief discussion of the most relevant literature, a preliminary annotated bibliography, and rationales for locating and analyzing primary sources (**primary sources should NOT be available online**). A draft of the proposal will be handed in on **October 17** for my comments and questions. The **final draft (10 pp. for 414, 15 pp. for 514, maximum)** will be due on the last day of semester classes (**Nov. 30**), together with a copy of my comments on the earlier draft. Failure to hand in both the final draft and my comments will constitute a failure (F) on the assignment. Documentation for historical sources in your proposal should follow the notes and bibliography system of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. For further guidance, use Rampolla's *Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. Instructions for the hypothetical project are available in the Canvas HIS 414 or 514 course module.

*****Course policies and etiquette: consistent and prompt completion of the readings and assignments is mandatory and will be regularly monitored; a point will be taken off your final course grade for each unexcused late assignment; **late assignments must be documented**.

All assignments must be **your own work, in your own words**. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and may be reported to the UNCG administration. **Any information or wording that you borrow from a source that is not in the assigned readings and viewings is not relevant to this course and will result in an 'F' on the assignment.**

When you refer directly to course readings or viewings, place a reference to the page number or digital time frame in parentheses. You are required to comply with the **UNCG Academic Integrity Policy**. It is online at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. During your time at UNCG, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling center can help with these or other issues. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services on campus by phone 336-334-5874, website <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center, 107 Gray Drive. For help with recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program offers information and services. You can learn more by: contacting recovery@uncg.edu or visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp>

Weekly Announcements, Readings and Short Assignments: Weekly announcements with instructions will be sent on Tuesdays, with the final due date set for midnight on the next Tuesday. This is to allow students to be flexible with weekday/weekend work schedules. Generally, it is always best to start right after the posting and submit early, before the deadline. Also be aware you must leave time in your regular schedule for working on your Book Review and Proposal Assignment. Again, it is best to start early and not to wait until the due dates are approaching.