

HISTORY 722
Dr. HUNTER
Spring 2011

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Marco Polo returning from Asia

Topics in Early America: Beyond the Atlantic World

From the fantasy of Eastern riches engendered by the travels of Marco Polo that inspired the European exploration of the New World to Russian plans for dominating the Pacific and the West Coast of America in the early nineteenth century, or the large influx of “model” Asian immigrants during the twentieth century, Americans and their history have always been implicated in a world-wide circulation of people. In this readings course we will move beyond the framework of the Atlantic World and explore early American connections to the wider world. Often these connections developed not only through the movement of peoples but also through commerce in goods and ideas. We will explore both primary and secondary sources that illuminate America’s global origins and connections in a variety of times and places.

Texts: (available at the campus bookstore)

John Wills, *1688: A Global History* (W.W. Norton, 2001)

Andre Gunder Frank, *ReOrient* (Univ Calif., 1998)

(on line through the library as an eBook but I recommend purchase)

Laurence Bergreen, *Marco Polo: From Venice to Xanadu* (Vintage, 2008)

Glyndwr Williams, *The Great South Sea* (Yale, 1997)

Nathaniel Philbrick, *Sea of Glory: America’s Voyage of Discovery* (Penguin, 2004)

Lisa Jardine, *Worldly Goods: A New History of the Renaissance* (W.W. Norton, 1996)

Linda Colley, *The Ordeal of Elizabeth Marsh* (Random House, 2008)

Rachel Snyder, *Fugitive Denim* (Norton, 2009)

Jonathan Spence, *Chan’s Great Continent: China in Western Minds* (W.W.Norton, 1998)

Requirements:

This is designed to be an intensive readings course at the graduate level. Your first and primary requirement is to come to class prepared for an in-depth discussion of the assigned readings. You will be asked to prepare short response papers or to produce in-class writings from time to time. No late papers will be accepted. Students will also be asked to do class presentations and a final paper that explores a topic from a global or transnational perspective. Needless to say, attendance is required and absences will affect your grade.

Class Presentations: Each week students will present and discuss material related to the assigned topic and reading. They might have the class analyze a short primary document, image, or artifact in terms of the concepts of that week's reading; they might present work of other scholars that challenges or supports the week's readings or present another historical episode that highlights or problematizes the week's readings. Students should meet with me to discuss their plans well in advance of their week(s).

Final Paper: This is not designed to be a typical primary research paper but rather a chance to apply one or more of the interpretations studied in the course to a relevant topic from your own research interests thereby arriving at a new "global" interpretation of your chosen material. The paper should be 12-15 pages and show evidence of original thinking and careful assessment of the secondary sources from the class and their relationship to your (primary) materials. The primary source(s) used for the final paper may be written documents, visual images, or material artifacts.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- * Students will acquire a knowledge of some of the key developments in American interaction with Europe, Asia, and the Middle East from initial exploration thru the eighteenth and nineteenth century.
- * Students will gain familiarity with key concepts in cultural history with a focus on cultural encounters and representations of the other.
- * Students will be introduced to classic and recent work on capitalism, imperialism, and exploration.
- * Students will learn how to apply conceptual texts to their own research topics.
- * Students will have an opportunity to enhance their ability to express ideas and historical analysis in writing, class discussion, and class presentation.

Grading

Class Participation (includes presentations)	40%
Shorter Written Work	30%
Final Paper	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

Class Schedule:

GLOBAL VIEWS

Jan 11 -- Tues Introduction

Jan 18 -- Tues Class Discussion

Reading: Wills, *1688: A Global History*

Jan 25 -- Tues Class Discussion

Reading: Frank, *ReOrient*

GEOGRAPHIES: IMAGINED AND REAL

Feb 1 -- Tues Class Discussion

Reading: Bergreen, *Marco Polo*

Feb 8 -- Tues Class Discussion

Reading: Williams, *The Great South Sea*

Feb 15 -- Tues Class Discussion

Reading: Philbrick, *Sea of Glory*

MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND PEOPLE

Feb 22 -- Tues Class Discussion

Reading: Jardine, *Worldly Goods*

Mar 1 -- Tues Class Discussion

Reading: Colley, *Elizabeth Marsh*

Mar 8 -- Tues SPRING BREAK!

Mar 15 -- Tues Class Discussion

Reading: Articles on global commerce in textiles, TBA

Mar 22 -- Tues Class Discussion

Reading: Snyder, *Fugitive Denim*,

