

GRADUATE COURSES

SPRING, 2009

I. COURSES FOR PhD and MA Students

525 & 527

Core Seminar

**S.Lipton
G.Marker**

This year-long course is your introduction to graduate study in history in general, and Stony Brook's Ph.D. Program in History in particular. It has three goals: 1) to familiarize you with the techniques and resources of historical research; 2) to provide an overview of the four thematic areas emphasized by our graduate program; and 3) to explore some important historiographical and theoretical concepts that inform historical writing. The first semester will combine a series of hands-on workshops in interpreting primary sources with selective reading of important and interesting scholarship that represents the four themes of our graduate curriculum, and also offers instructive examples of using sources. Requirements for the first semester include active participation in class discussion of assigned readings, three or four short writing/analytical exercises, and a preliminary research proposal. The second semester will be devoted to researching and writing a substantial research paper.

FIELD SEMINARS

522

US Since the Civil War

J. Farmer

Tuesday
5:20-8:10

This intensive readings course for Ph.D. and MAT students covers U.S. history from Reconstruction to Reagan. With the exception of a couple of "classics," most of the assigned books are recently published monographs. They represent some of the newer approaches to the American past: collective memory, women in the public sphere, gender (including manliness), race (including whiteness), gay history, environmental history, suburban history, and transnational history. Students will generally read one book per week. They will produce a long historiographical essay along with a few shorter assignment.

SBS N-318

564

Introduction to Chinese History

A. Guo

Wednesday
5:20-6:40

This seminar is an introduction to Chinese history and culture from the ancient times to the present. The course will introduce the key features of Chinese civilization, how they have developed over time, and what their influences are on today's China. Themes to be covered will include: the origins and development of China's humanistic philosophical traditions (Confucianism); the structure and mechanisms of imperial rule (Civil Examination System); China's medieval and early modern social transformations (Commercialization); and the modernization of China in the 20th century (Reforms and Revolutions). Our meetings will be comprised of lectures and discussions. Requirements include short reading response, one five-page paper and a presentation.

THEME SEMINARS

553 Theme

Commodity Histories: Political Economy and Historical Development

**P.
Gootenberg**

Thursday
4:30-7:30

This theme seminar uses the burgeoning field of commodity history, and the vast terrain of Latin American and global history, to explore the uses and value of "political economy" in history. The cultural turn of the 1990s skirted many of the urgent social and economic concerns of previous waves of theoretically-inclined historians, but new approaches to material goods and global consumption offer to bring cultural, anthropological, constructionist, and transnational perspectives back into economic and social history. The seminar uses eight or so of those new commodity histories to trace out their possibilities, and in the process students concertedly revisit and reflect on classic political economy perspectives such as modernization, state-building and developmentalism, neo-Marxism, structuralism, dependency, and world systems analysis. Two papers.

SBS N320

554 Theme

Law, Crime & the State

E. Beverley

Wednesday
4:30-7:30

This seminar takes legal systems and the criminalization of social groups as lenses on modern states' techniques for disciplining populations, reproducing structures of privilege, and articulating nationalist ideologies. In addition to looking from the perspective of states, we consider the ways subjects and citizens manipulate, modify and evade legal regimes. Moving from the early modern period through the contemporary, the course takes on themes ranging from legal pluralism, social banditry, law and cultural difference under colonial regimes, prisons and rehabilitation, ethnic profiling and criminalization, and the place of outlaws in nationalist rhetoric. The course will be interdisciplinary, incorporating comparative and monographic historical and anthropological studies,

SBS N-303

theoretical works and literary texts; and transregional, with units examining particular themes in South Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, the US, and other other locations. Readings may include books or articles by scholars Lauren Benton, Michel Foucault, Carlo Ginzburg, Ranajit Guha, Eric Hobsbawm, Eric Tagliacozzo, Richard L. Roberts, Nicolas Shumway, Radhika Singha, and some selections from literary or historical primary sources.

557.04
SOC 514.04

Revolutions & Revolutionary Movements

I.
Roxborough

M 7:00-10:00pm

This will be a reading course, aimed at surveying the literature in the field. We will cover the major theories and approaches. After a brief discussion of sociological theories of revolution, we will analyze in detail three cases: the American Revolution, the Chinese revolution(s), and the Irish struggle for independence (c.1916-23.) There will be 3-4 weeks on each case. Within each case, a range of different approaches and methods of analyzing revolutions will be considered. The course is cross-listed with Sociology.

SBS N403

SPECIAL CONFERENCE THEME SEMINAR

557.01

The World of Lion Gardiner

N.Landsman

Wednesday
4:30-7:30

This class will be organized around the academic conference on the Worlds of Lion Gardiner to be held at Stony Brook on March 20-21. It will involve topics in English, Dutch, Early American, Native American, and Atlantic History. The principal assignment will be to read the pre-circulated papers for the conference and to participate in the conference in March. It is intended for those who want experience with academic conferences, and those who want to read in the field towards their oral exams.

This class will not count as a theme seminar.

RESEARCH SEMINARS

615

Historicizing the Global: Decolonizing History

Y. Hong

Monday
4:30-7:30

By now, it has become widely accepted that History (with a capital H) was deeply implicated in naturalizing the territorially delimited nation-state as one of the fundamental categories of historical analysis and narration. This recognition of the radical historicity of their own disciplinary knowledge is leading many historians to take the “transnational turn.” Despite the rapid spread of transnational studies, however, the theoretical thrust and the political valences of the concept still remain imprecise. Furthermore, so many of the works which march under this banner do so with little or no critical analysis of race, gender, and sexuality. This seminar will explore how ideas on gender, race, and class helped structure global flows of peoples, ideas, and goods and legitimize the unequal power relations that they embodied. In this seminar, we will also discuss how the state serves as a “surface of articulation” between the global and the national. In the end, we will all learn that transnational perspective affects historical narratives and the making of alternative possibilities. The ultimate goal of this seminar is to reflect on strengths, the weaknesses, and future directions of the current transnational turn. The first half of the seminar will be devoted to reading and discussing recent scholarly literature in the field in order to help students define the parameters and guiding questions for their own research. Students are expected to submit a research paper (20-25 pages).

SBS N318

695

Prospectus workshop

C.Sellers

Thursday
4:30-7:30

In this workshop, for students who have completed their course work and are ready to begin on their dissertation, students will research and write up a full-scale plan for a book-length original contribution to historical scholarship. Students need their advisors’ approval to enroll, and should expect to work closely with their advisor in preparing their proposals. Work in the course will consist of exercises, presentations, write-ups and discussions, through which students will hone

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their initial ideas into a project statement that is clear about the historiography it addresses, the central questions it poses, the sources on which it will draw. The prospectus should contain: an explanation of the research problem under investigation; a summary of the relevant secondary literature; a statement of hypothesis; an outline of both research sources (especially primary materials) and methods the student expects to employ. The prospectus must be acceptable both to the instructor of the workshop and to the student's Ph.D. committee. This course is graded S/U; a satisfactory grade is required for advancement to candidacy.

II. GRADUATE COURSES FOR MAT & SPD Students

CEG 523

Historiography

A. Cooper

Thursday
5:20-8:10

This course will explore the writing of history from two organizing principles: first, as a theoretical and historical subject that raises complex questions of epistemology and even political philosophy, and secondly, as a craft with its own set of techniques and tools that must be practiced to be mastered. From the former perspective, we will examine history historically, consider how the very meaning of the term has evolved, look at the changing ways historians have presented the past and ask what made their accounts believable at the time, take a particularly close look at the many different ends to which history has been put, and sample and evaluate some of today's leading approaches to the past. At the same time, we will study and practice history as a set of technical skills, as the craft of determining "facts" from primary sources, and deriving from those facts true and meaningful conclusions about the past. Requirements include regular participation in class discussions, frequent short writing assignments (both in and out of class), and a final paper. (MAT students must register under CEG 523. This course is designed for MA, MAT, and SPD students).

SBS N-303

CEG 522***US Since the Civil War******J. Farmer***Tuesday
5:20-8:10

This intensive readings course for Ph.D. and MAT students covers U.S. history from Reconstruction to Reagan. With the exception of a couple of "classics," most of the assigned books are recently published monographs. They represent some of the newer approaches to the American past: collective memory, women in the public sphere, gender (including manliness), race (including whiteness), gay history, environmental history, suburban history, and transnational history. Students will generally read one book per week. They will produce a long historiographical essay along with a few shorter assignments.

SBS N-318

CEJ502***Introduction to Chinese History******A. Guo***Wednesday
5:20-6:40

This seminar is an introduction to Chinese history and culture from the ancient times to the present. The course will introduce the key features of Chinese civilization, how they have developed over time, and what their influences are on today's China. Themes to be covered will include: the origins and development of China's humanistic philosophical traditions (Confucianism); the structure and mechanisms of imperial rule (Civil Examination System); China's medieval and early modern social transformations (Commercialization); and the modernization of China in the 20th century (Reforms and Revolutions). Our meetings will be comprised of lectures and discussions. Requirements include short reading response, one five-page paper and a presentation.

***Courses for Fall, 2009
soon to be announced.***

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