

PROGRAMME FOR THE COURSE MODULE**Title:** Topics and Narratives in World History**Code:** 31836**Type:** Obligatory Course**Number of Credits (ECTS):** 5 ECTS**Language:** English**Professors:** Stephen Jacobson, Sandra Montón

Descriptor: This module will focus on major themes that constitute the grand narratives of World History taking place over the *longue durée*. Topics include: the rise and fall of empires and states; the origins of globalization; consumption, production, and capitalism; minorities, race, and ethnicity; and gender, power, and identities. We will consider examples from a range of geographical regions, including Europe, North and South America, Islamic Eurasia, North Africa, and China and Southeast Asia. The time period covers the sweep of the history beginning with the origins of humankind, continuing with neolithic and agricultural and industrial revolutions, and culminating with contemporary globalization and the twenty-first century. From year to year, the topics and readings may shift in order to incorporate some of the recent debates and scholarship within the field.

General and Specific Competencies:**General Competencies:**

1. To develop critical perspectives with respect to historical interpretations of the past.
2. To complement historical analyses with other methodologies from the social sciences.
3. To employ comparative methods in order to gain additional perspectives on historical debates.
4. To recognize the ways in which global and world history challenges and questions interpretations of phenomena, which have been previously examined from a national, regional, or local perspectives.
5. To elaborate grand narratives of long duration that cross political, geographical and temporal frontiers.
6. To provide students with experience in constructive peer review, presentation skills, and essay writing.

Specific competencies:

1. Analysis of the paradigmatic theories of the rise and fall of states and empires.
2. Analysis of demographic, ecological, economic, and political-institutional approaches to historical development and sustainability.
3. Analysis of the role of consumption (versus production) in different society over the *longue durée*.
4. Analysis of the development of western gender systems.
5. Analysis of how race and ethnicity have defined and shaped the status of minorities over time.
6. Analysis of how religious, gender, and ethno-racial difference have been perceived from different cultural perspectives in history.

Programme:

1. Introduction to the Course
2. The Rise and Fall of States and Empires
3. Minorities, Race, Religion, and Ethnicity
4. Consumption and Production
5. Gender, Power and Identity

Methodology:

Each session will consist of one-hour lecture and one-hour seminar and class discussion. The extra 15 minutes will be dedicated to organizational matters.

Evaluation Criteria:

Over the course of the semester, each student will have to hand in seven brief essays (approximately 6.000 characters with spaces) that summarize, analyse and critique the text (or texts) assigned for the present week. Each essay must be handed in by the end of the class. As there are 12 sessions, students will not hand an essay in the first session and in four other sessions. There is no final project.

The final Grade will be calculated according the following rubric:

- a. Preparation and Participation: 30 percent.
- b. Essays: 70 percent

Schedule (with obligatory readings)

Session 1. Introduction (1 October)

Session 2: The Rise and Fall of States and Empires: The Great Divergence (8 October)

Kenneth Pomeranz, "Political Economy and Ecology on the Eve of Industrialization: Europe, China, and the Global Conjuncture," *American Historical Review*, 107, no. 2 (2002): 425-446.

R. Bin Won, "The Search for European Differences and Domination in the Early Modern World," *American Historical Review*, 107, no. 2 (2002): 447-469

David Ludden, "Modern Inequality and Early Modernity: A Comment for the AHR on articles by R. Bin Won and Kenneth Pommeranz," *American Historical Review*, 107, no. 2 (April 2002): 470-480.

Session 3. The Rise and Fall of States and Empires: Demography and Climate (15 October)

Geoffrey Parker, *Global Crisis: War, Climate Change & Catastrophe in the Seventeenth Century*, xv - 113, 642-685.

Kenneth Pomeranz, "Weather, War, and Welfare: Persistence and Change in Geoffrey Parker's Global Crisis," *Historically Speaking: The Bulletin of the Historical Society*, 14, no. 5 (2013), 29-39.

Session 4. The Rise and Fall of States and Empires: Prosperity and Poverty (22 October)

Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation," (Cambridge MA: MIT Working Paper, 2000).

Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, "The Role of Institutions in Growth and Development," in *Leadership and Growth*, ed. David Brady and Michael Spence (Washington, DC: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, 2010).

Session 5. The Rise and Fall of States and Empires: Inequality (29 October)

Thomas Picketty and Gabriel Zucman, "Capital is Back: Wealth-Income Ratios in Rich Countries, 1700-2010," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Advanced Access publishing.

Patricia A. McAnanyand and Norman Yoffee eds., *Human Resilience, Ecological Vulnerability and the Aftermath of Empire* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Session 6. Conceptualizing Religious and Ethnic Alterity in the Western and Islamicate Worlds (5 November)

Martin Bernal, *Black Athena: The Afroasiatic Roots of Classical Civilization* (London: Free Association Books, 1987), vol. I, pp. 1-38. Reading for lecture.

Richard C. Martin, "From *Dhimmis* to Minorities: Shifting Constructions of the Non-Muslim Other from Early to Modern Islam," in Shatzmiller (ed.), *Nationalism and Minority Identities in Muslim Societies* (Ontario: McGill-Queen's Press, 2005), 3-21. Reading for lecture.

David Nirenberg, *Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition* (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2013), Introduction, pp. 1-12; and Chapter 5, "Jews and Power in Medieval Europe," pp. 183-216. Reading for discussion

Session 7. Racism, Ethnicity, and Colonialism (12 November)

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Pantheon, 1978), "Introduction and pp. 31-49. Reading for lecture.

Joan Wallach Scott, *The Politics of the Veil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007), chapter 2, "Racism," pp. 42-89. Reading for lecture.

Said, *Orientalism*, chapter 2, "The Scope of Orientalism," pp. 49-110. Reading for discussion.

Session 8. From Mudejars to Muslims in the West (or Western Muslims?) (19 November)

Brian A. Catlos, *Muslims in Latin Christendom, c. 1050-1614* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), pp. 1-17. Reading for lecture.

Tariq Ramadan, "Europeanization of Islam or Islamicization of Europe?" in Shireen Hunter (ed.), *Islam: Europe's Second Religion: The New Social, Cultural, and Political Landscape* (Westport Conn: Praeger Publishers, 2002), pp. 207-218. Reading for lecture.

Joan Wallach Scott, *The Politics of the Veil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007), chapter 1, "The headscarf controversies," pp. 21-41 and chapter 3, "Secularism," pp. 90-123. Reading for discussion.

Session 9. Consumption versus Production: Small Luxuries and the Origins of Globalization (26 November)

Anne McCants, "Exotic Goods, Popular Consumption, and the Standard of Living: Thinking about Globalization in the Early Modern World," *Journal of World History* 18, no. 4 (2007): 433-462.

Session 10. Consumption versus Production: Hunting-Gathering and the Neolithic "Revolution" (3 December)

Diane Gifford-González, "Gaps in Zooarchaeological Analyses of Butchery: Is gender an issue?" in *From Bones to Behaviour: Ethnoarchaeological and Experimental Contributions to the Interpretation of Faunal Remains*, ed. J. Hudson (Southern Illinois University: Carbondale, 1993), 181-99.

Session 11. Gender, Power, and Identity: A Geneology of the Gender System in the Western World (10 December)

Joan Wallach Scott (1986), "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," in *American Historical Review*, 91 (5): 1053-1075.

Session 12. Gender, Power and Identity: Values and Interests Behind the Writing of History (17 December)

Almudena Hernando (2013), "How Archaeology Has Legitimized a Patriarchal Society," in *Recovering Archaeology. Beyond the Tropes of Modernity*, ed. Alfredo González Ruibal (Routledge: London, 2013), 155-67.

Complementary Bibliography (by themes):

1. Rise and Fall of States and Empires

Daren Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty* (London: Profile Books, 2013)

Jared Diamond, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* (London: Penguin, 2011)

Brian Fagan, *The Great Warming: Climate Change and the Rise and Fall of Civilizations* (New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2008)

Niall Ferguson, *The Great Degeneration: How Institutions Fail and Economies Die* (London: Penguin, 2014)

Ian Morris, *The Measure of Civilization: How Social Development Decides The Fate of Nations* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013)

Thomas Picketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014)

Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: Cine, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000)

2. Minorities, Race, Religion and Ethnicity

Leila Ahmed, *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence from the Middle East to America* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011)

Talal Asad, Wendy Brown, Judith Butler, and Saba Mahmood, *Is Critique Secular? Blasphemy, Injury, and Free Speech* (Berkeley: The Townsend Center for the Humanities. The University of California, 2009)

Jeremy Cohen, *The Friars and the Jews: The Evolution of Medieval Anti-Judaism* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1982)

Norman Daniel, *Islam and the West: The Making of an Image* (rpt. London: Oneworld Publications, 2009)

Winthrop D. Jordan, *The White Man's Burden: Historical Origins of Racism in the United States* (Oxford et al: Oxford University Press, 1974)

Joane Nagel, *Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality: Intimate Intersections, Forbidden Frontiers* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003)

John Tolan, *Saracens: Islam in the Medieval European Imagination* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2002)

Consumption versus Production

Jan de Vries, *The Industrious Revolution. Consumer Behaviour and the Household Economy, 1650 to the Present* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008).

Robert Finlay, "The Pilgrim Art: The Culture of Porcelain in World History," *Journal of World History* 9, no. 2 (1998): 141-187.

Gender, Power, and Identity

Almudena Hernando, *La Fantasía de la Individualidad* (Buenos Aires: Katz, 2012)

Sandra Montón-Subías, S. & Sandra Lozano Rubio, "La arqueología feminista en la normatividad académica" *Complutum* (2012)