



History 5396 ONLINE

Cross-Cultural Encounters in World History

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& BY APPOINTMENT

SPRING SEMESTER 2018

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

ONLINE COURSE VIA BLACKBOARD

HIST 5396 is an advanced introduction to cross-cultural encounters in world history. Cross-cultural interplay is not only a modern phenomenon associated with globalization: it has occurred over all parts of the globe, and across vast distances, since antiquity. What's more, even within the Eurasian ecumene the preponderance of pre-modern cross-cultural interaction was neither created nor controlled by the peoples of Europe. We shall begin our exploration with two prominent case studies from the pre-modern epoch: the ancient "Silk Roads" and the Mongol Empire. We shall then turn our attention to the varieties of cross-cultural interaction in a globalizing world. Through the examples of the transcontinental Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds, we shall probe the pre-conditions of the ascendancy of modern Western Europe, the vaunted "Rise of the West." All the while, we shall scrutinize the methodologies associated with the interdisciplinary study of cross-cultural encounters as well as the limitations and pitfalls of ethnocentric histories.

Upon the successful completion of HIST 5396, you will be equipped with the tools to conduct advanced research in cross-cultural, transnational, and world history. For those of you intending to teach at the high school or collegiate level, it also provides essential conceptual and methodological background for designing world history survey courses. Finally, this course serves as the foundation for an MA field in world/cross-cultural history.

◆ REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES, & GRADING

Enrollment implies acceptance of all the provisions articulated in this syllabus. Course requirements and procedures are non-negotiable. All students must carefully read the syllabus by the end of the first week and to communicate any questions to Dr. Rapp immediately.

HIST 5396 is conducted entirely on the internet through SHSU's Blackboard interface, through which you will access some of the assigned readings, discuss required books and articles, and submit written work. At various points of the semester, Skype/phone conferences with the instructor may be required.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU CHECK THE ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION ON BLACKBOARD AND LOG INTO YOUR UNIVERSITY E-MAIL ACCOUNT AT LEAST ONCE EVERY TWO DAYS FOR THE DURATION OF THE SEMESTER.

Active participation in ALL **discussions** is required and counts for 25% of the total course grade. In addition to response postings, all students must introduce at least one original thread in each discussion unit. For additional information, see “Online Discussion: Requirements & Expectations” below.

Written work comprises of 75% of the total course grade: FIVE CRITICAL BOOK REVIEWS together account for 20% and the FINAL PAPER—including a required status report—makes up the remaining 55%. Written work is strictly due on the days and times indicated (Huntsville, TX, USA). Irrespective of length, all papers must have a strong critical/analytical dimension. They should not be limited to a linear description of the source/s. Papers must be submitted electronically in standard Microsoft Word .doc or .docx format. For additional information, see the guidelines below.

As a professional historian it is my task to evaluate your written work for clarity, organization, persuasiveness, and quality and depth of scholarly analysis. Therefore, I shall return written work to you with abundant comments. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU CAREFULLY REVIEW INSTRUCTOR’S COMMENTS AND MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO SUBSEQUENT ASSIGNMENTS. Expectations will rise we push into the semester. Grades are earned by what you produce in accord with the assigned topic(s), the refinement of your scholarly skills, how well you follow instructions, and so forth.

DEADLINES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED! In most cases, extensions will be granted only for documented personal emergencies. It is imperative that you keep Dr. Rapp informed in a timely manner of circumstances adversely affecting your performance. EXTENSIONS ARE NEVER AUTOMATIC. Contact the instructor before attempting to submit a late assignment.

All work submitted in this course must be entirely your own. ALL FORMS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, INCLUDING PLAGIARISM, ARE EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN AND WILL BE PUNISHED IN ACCORD WITH UNIVERSITY STATUTES. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, contact Dr. Rapp immediately. I also urge you to review SHSU’s Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct, the last of which is available online at netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html

Failure of one or more of the three grading subsets (online discussion, all written reviews, and the final paper) or a total course grade below a C- results in no credit for this advanced course. Incompletes will be granted only in cases of verifiable personal emergency. The instructor reserves the right to award for improvement when all course requirements have been satisfied.

Further information on academic dishonesty, the Americans with Disabilities Act, absences for religious holy days, etc., may be found at www.shsu.edu/syllabus

◆ MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

The following books are required for this course. You may purchase new, used, or—when available—electronic copies from whatever book dealer or internet outlet you choose. E-BOOKS MAY BE USED ONLY IF THEY ARE THE ASSIGNED EDITIONS AND HAVE STANDARD PAGINATION. If you cannot

verify both, purchase conventional paper copies. It is YOUR responsibility to access and read each assignment in the required edition ahead of the deadline.

- ▶ Abu-Lughod, Janet L. *Before European Hegemony: The World System A.D. 1250–1350*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1989. ISBN 9780195067743.
- ▶ Bentley, Jerry H. *Old World Encounters: Cross-Cultural Contacts and Exchanges in Pre-Modern Times*. New York—Oxford: Oxford UP, 1993. ISBN 9780195076400.
- ▶ *Cross-Cultural History and the Domestication of Otherness*, Michel Jan Rozbicki and George Ndege eds. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. ISBN 9781349342501.
- ▶ Foltz, Richard. *Religions of the Silk Road: Premodern Patterns of Globalization*. 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. ISBN 9780230621251. REVISED EDITION ONLY!
- ▶ *Globalization in World History*, A.G. Hopkins ed. New York—London: W.W Norton, 2002. ISBN 9780393979428.
- ▶ McNeill, J.R. and William H. McNeill. *The Human Web: A Bird's-Eye View of World History*. New York—London: W.W. Norton, 2003. ISBN 9780393925685.

And any TWO of the following four items:

- ▶ Aslanian, Sebouh David. *From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean: The Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from New Julfa*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011. ISBN 9780520266872.
- ▶ Hansen, Valerie. *The Silk Road: A New History with Documents*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2017. ISBN 9780190208929.
- ▶ McNeill, William H. *Plagues and Peoples*, rev. ed. New York: Anchor/Doubleday, 1989. ISBN 9780385121224. REVISED EDITION ONLY!
- ▶ Payne, Richard E. *A State of Mixture: Christians, Zoroastrians, and Iranian Political Culture in Late Antiquity*. Oakland: University of California Press, 2015. ISBN 9780520286191.

Additional readings are available for free download through our password-protected Blackboard page. These materials are for class use only.

◆ ONLINE LIBRARY DATABASES

HIST 5396 may require use of online academic databases (e.g., JSTOR, ProjectMUSE, and EBSCO) available to registered students through SHSU's Newton Gresham Library. You may also be required to use the extensive PDF resources at archive.org.

◆ BOOK REVIEWS, WIKIPEDIA, & OTHER UNAPPROVED SOURCES

Unless directed otherwise, you must completely avoid book reviews written by other scholars and individuals, including those available online. Unapproved materials may not be used for written assignments. Without prior permission students must NOT consult Wikipedia and similar non-academic, non-peer-reviewed internet sites for tasks related to this course. Should you have any questions about these provisions, contact Dr. Rapp immediately.

◆ M.A. “COMPREHENSIVE” EXAMINATION FIELD IN WORLD HISTORY

Consider adding a field in cross-cultural encounters to your MA “comprehensive” examinations. For more information about these required exams, see <http://www.shsu.edu/programs/master-of-arts-in-history/comprehensive-exams.html>. If you intend to pursue a MA field in cross-cultural encounters, I highly recommend that you print out and/or electronically copy the discussion threads and all postings for the whole semester.

Schedule

Begin each unit with the audio or text introduction posted on Blackboard. Read each unit's assignments in the order listed. Books to be used for written reviews are prefixed + and are bolded and underlined. Readings include all relevant footnotes/endnotes, maps, images, glossaries, etc. Assignments may be modified at the instructor's discretion.

Wednesday, January 17–Wednesday, January 24

INTRODUCTIONS

Each student must make an online posting introducing herself/himself to the group before midday Wednesday, January 24. Please do this as quickly as possible and make sure to have read all the student introductions by Thursday, January 25. Communicate a sense of your academic interests and any background in cross-cultural and/or world history. No previous training in these subjects are required!

UNIT 1: Monday, January 29–Monday, February 5

CROSS-CULTURAL PATTERNS IN PRE-MODERN EURASIA

◆ REMINDER: begin each unit with the online audio introduction. Then, read items in the order listed.

■ ONLINE PDF—Jerry H. Bentley, “The New World History,” in *A Companion to Western Historical Thought*, Lloyd Kramer and Sara Maza eds. (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002), 393–416.

+ Jerry Bentley, *Old World Encounters*

Written review of Bentley's monograph Old World Encounters (ONLY!) must be submitted via Blackboard no later than 9:00 am (Huntsville, TX time) on Monday, January 29. Do not use the PDF for this short paper. ALL DEADLINES ARE FIRM! Remember: items for the short papers are prefixed + in this schedule.

Online discussion of ALL ASSIGNED MATERIALS begins at 9:00 am (Huntsville, TX time) on Monday, January 29 and concludes at 9:00 am on Monday, February 5. Throughout the semester, your initial posting must be made within the first two days.

UNIT 2: Monday, February 12–Monday, February 19

RELIGIOUS ENCOUNTERS IN PRE-MODERN EURASIA

+ Richard Foltz, *Religions of the Silk Road* [second edition only!]

Written review of Foltz must be submitted via Blackboard no later than 9:00 am (Huntsville, TX time) on Monday, February 12. ALL DEADLINES ARE FIRM!

Online discussion of ALL ASSIGNED MATERIALS begins at 9:00 am (Huntsville, TX time) on Monday, February 12 and concludes at 9:00 am on Monday, February 19.

UNIT 3: Monday, February 26–Monday, March 5

INTEGRATION OF EURASIA IN THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY

+ Janet Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*

Written review of Abu-Lughod must be submitted via Blackboard no later than 9:00 am (Huntsville, TX time) on Monday, February 26. ALL DEADLINES ARE FIRM!

Online discussion of ALL ASSIGNED MATERIALS begins at 9:00 am (Huntsville, TX time) on Monday, February 26 and concludes at 9:00 am on Monday, March 5.

UNIT 4: Monday, March 5–Friday, March 9

GLOBALIZATION IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

+ Globalization in World History, A.G. Hopkins ed.

Written review of Hopkins ed. must be submitted via Blackboard no later than 9:00 am (Huntsville, TX time) on Monday, March 5. ALL DEADLINES ARE FIRM!

Shortened online discussion of ALL ASSIGNED MATERIALS begins at 9:00 am (Huntsville, TX time) Monday, March 5 and concludes at 3:00pm on Friday, March 9. Note the shortened discussion period because of spring break!

UNIT 5: Wednesday, March 21–Wednesday, March 28

DOMESTICATION OF “OTHERNESS”

+ Cross-Cultural History and the Domestication of Otherness, Rozbicki and Ndege eds.

Written review of Rozbicki and Ndege eds.(all contributions!) must be submitted via Blackboard no later than 9:00 am (Huntsville, TX time) on Wednesday, March 21. ALL DEADLINES ARE FIRM!

Online discussion of ALL ASSIGNED MATERIALS begins at 9:00 am (Huntsville, TX time) on Wednesday, March 21 and concludes at 9:00 am on Wednesday, March 28.

UNIT 6: Thursday, April 5–Thursday, April 12

THE HUMAN WEB

- McNeill and McNeill, *The Human Web*

NO WRITTEN REVIEW OF MCNEILL AND MCNEILL. Nevertheless, this book is crucial for the final paper and I expect the online discussion to be especially engaging!

Online discussion begins at 9:00 am (Huntsville, TX time) on Thursday, April 5 and concludes at 9:00 am on Thursday, April 12.

➔ TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 9:00AM SHARP, HUNTSVILLE, TX TIME

Strict deadline for the **status report on your final paper**. This exercise must be typed and double-spaced. Along with a description of the work you have completed and what remains (about two pages), the report must also include: an appropriate scholarly title; your proposed thesis statement; and a full bibliography prepared carefully in the required Chicago format.

➔ FRIDAY, MAY 4, 9:00AM SHARP, HUNTSVILLE, TX TIME

Strict deadline for **the complete and polished final paper**.

ONLINE DISCUSSION: REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

Discussion is an integral part of graduate colloquia and seminars. Students are therefore required to participate regularly in our online text-based discussion for all units. FAILURE TO CONTRIBUTE REGULARLY IS AKIN TO SKIPPING CLASS, A PARTICULARLY EGREGIOUS ACT AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL.

Starting with Unit 1, regular participation includes:

- ❖ carefully reading postings by students and the instructor **at least once every two days** when a discussion board is open
- ❖ making **at least two or three scholarly and nuanced postings per unit**; these may take the form of original threads, responses to existing postings, nuanced questions, relevant observations, etc. (occasionally posting nothing more than one- or two-sentence responses is not sufficient); your initial posting must be made within the first two days
- ❖ introducing **at least one original thread in each discussion unit**; such threads should begin with a substantial posting (i.e., a coherent and thoughtful paragraph of medium length); you are responsible for moderating comments on your threads

In addition, students must abide by these provisions:

- ❖ while you are free to disagree with the author(s) of the readings, other students, and the instructor, you must always treat others with courtesy and respect
- ❖ some tangents and detours are expected, and these can be interesting, but in general please remain focused on the materials under review
- ❖ bald impressions and opinions are rarely sufficient in an advanced history course, whether in discussion or in a review or essay; rather, your position/argument should be bolstered by evidence and proof; what you think is paramount
- ❖ avoid single postings exceeding two long paragraphs—try to maintain focus!
- ❖ if your posting refers to a specific passage or supplies a direct quote kindly indicate the relevant page number(s)
- ❖ you are welcome—and encouraged—to refer to earlier assigned readings

➔ IT IS FORBIDDEN TO READ AND/OR TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSION UNTIL YOUR REVIEW HAS BEEN SUBMITTED!

CRITICAL BOOK REVIEWS: REQUIRED GUIDELINES

Book reviews require you to ACTIVELY ENGAGE, CONTEXTUALIZE, ASSESS, AND CRITIQUE ASSIGNED READINGS IN AN ORIGINAL WAY. Although all scholarly writings have a descriptive dimension, your reviews should MINIMIZE DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING DIRECT QUOTATIONS. Instead, they should feature your original assessment and analysis in the context of the course. The key is your deep engagement with the publication(s) being reviewed. Begin with an appropriate introductory paragraph articulating the contours and central arguments of the publication(s) and its/their principal thesis/purpose. When you refer to the author and title of the book for the first time in the body of your review, provide the full name and title.

REVIEWS MUST BE AT LEAST FOUR (4) FULL PAGES IN LENGTH AND MUST NOT EXCEED SIX (6) PAGES. In general, you should refer only to the work(s) being reviewed. When absolutely necessary, allusions to other sources/publications must be strictly limited to previously assigned readings.

Compose your paper in Microsoft Word and submit the finished paper as a standard .doc or .docx file through the appropriate Blackboard link. Use a standard academic font such as Times New Roman set at 12-point. Pages must be numbered and margins set to 1" on all sides. Line spacing should be set to either double or space-and-a-half. CAREFUL PROOFREADING BEFORE SUBMISSION IS ESSENTIAL.

The first page (only) of reviews must begin with a left-justified, single-spaced information block in this format:

Insert your name
History 5396
Dr. Rapp
Insert date submitted

In lieu of a title, provide a full Chicago-style citation of the reviewed work at the start of the first page only, centered, e.g.:

Jerry H. Bentley, *Old World Encounters: Cross-Cultural Contacts and Exchanges in Pre-Modern Times*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Papers will be evaluated for clarity, organization, grammar and syntax, logic, persuasiveness, depth of engagement of the source(s), and original analysis and critique. Written work must be focused on the assigned source(s). EVIDENCE AND DETAIL ARE VITAL AND MUST BE BALANCED WITH BROADER IDEAS AND CONTEXT. In most cases, unsubstantiated impressions should be avoided. SUBMISSIONS LACKING REFERENCES WILL EARN NO CREDIT. Your grade will also be determined by how fully you follow the required instructions. As usual, ALL WORK MUST BE YOUR OWN—PLAGIARISM OF ANY KIND IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN.

REFERENCES IN ALL WRITTEN WORK PRODUCED IN THIS COURSE, INCLUDING THESE SHORTER PAPERS, MUST BE FORMATTED ACCORDING TO THE CHICAGO SYSTEM. Required footnotes must be prepared using Word's automatic footnote feature. Before submitting your review, please convert footnotes to single-spaced Times New Roman text set at 10- or 12-point. All papers must also include a separate bibliography containing all works cited. Center the word "Bibliography" and single-space the alphabetized, Chicago-style entries. For more information on the Chicago system, see below.

THE FINAL PAPER: REQUIRED GUIDELINES

REQUIRED TOPICS

Making use of all the assigned readings AND required additional materials (see below), select one of the following topics:

1. What are the benefits and limitations of investigating history from a cross-cultural vantage?

—OR—

2. Compare and contrast the ancient Silk Roads, Mongol Eurasia, and sea-based worlds of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans in terms of their utility as large-scale units of cross-cultural interplay.

STRICT DEADLINE

The strict deadline is Friday, May 4, 2018 at 9:00 am Huntsville, TX, time. Papers must be submitted through the appropriate Blackboard link. **ITAKE DEADLINES VERY SERIOUSLY!** Because this assignment is based chiefly upon assigned readings, extensions will be granted only in extraordinary cases of verifiable personal emergency. Extensions are never automatic. Never submit a late paper without first contacting Dr. Rapp. GET STARTED EARLY AND TO LEAVE YOURSELF PLENTY OF TIME FOR REVISIONS AND CAREFUL PROOFREADING. I am pleased to answer any questions you might have.

LENGTH

At least sixteen (16) full pages and no more than twenty (20) pages, including Chicago-style footnotes and master bibliography.

FORMAT

Prepare papers in Microsoft Word and submitted electronically via Blackboard in .doc or .docx format. Use a standard academic font such as Times New Roman set at 12-point. Pages must be numbered and margins set to 1" on all sides. Line spacing should be set to either one-and-a-half or double. Use the same information block required for book reviews (see above).

Final papers must remain focused on the assigned topic. They must be logically organized, persuasive, articulate, and grammatically and syntactically correct. DON'T FORGET TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE TITLE AND INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH, INCLUDING A CLEAR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE/THESIS. Do not provide a separate title page. Do not add extra spaces between paragraphs.

All work must be your own and sources must be properly cited. FINAL PAPERS LACKING SOURCES AND/OR SCHOLARLY REFERENCES AND/OR THAT HAVE BEEN PLAGIARIZED WILL EARN NO CREDIT. You'll find additional information about the university's plagiarism policy in the Student Handbook.

It is vital that you: engage the readings (keep description and "plot summary" to a minimum); discuss the readings COLLECTIVELY AND IN RELATION TO ONE ANOTHER; analyze and critique the assigned sources; and balance broad and sweeping ideas and observations with specific details and examples. I

HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU ORGANIZE YOUR PAPER THEMATICALLY. Make sure you have followed all instructions.

SOURCES (READ CAREFULLY!)

The final paper requires the use of all assigned readings in HIST 5396, including those not specifically reviewed/analyzed in the shorter papers. You are also required to incorporate two of the four additional books enumerated in “Materials for Purchase” above, i.e. Aslanian; Robicki/Ndege eds.; Hansen; and McNeill).

Optionally, with Dr. Rapp’s permission you may use up to two additional monographs or their equivalent for this assignment. Unassigned readings not explicitly approved by the instructor—including internet resources—are not permitted. THERE IS NO PENALTY IF YOU DO NOT USE EXTRA PUBLICATIONS.

You may consult the online discussion board for inspiration, but postings should not be directly used or cited for the final paper.

Do not use internet resources without the express written permission of the instructor.

CHICAGO CITATION EXAMPLES

► MONOGRAPH / BOOK (TWO EXAMPLES!)

● First footnote reference

¹ Richard E. Payne, *A State of Mixture: Christians, Zoroastrians, and Iranian Political Culture in Late Antiquity* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2015), 111–112 and 125.

⁷ J.R. McNeill and William McNeill, *The Human Web: A Bird's-Eye View of World History* (New York-London: W.W. Norton, 2003), 90.

Note: use Word's automatic feature to insert footnotes; the first footnote reference to each work must impart complete information; the page numbers above refer to the pages actually cited; book titles must be italicized.

● Additional footnote references

⁸ Payne, *State of Mixture*, 88.

¹² McNeill and McNeill, *Human Web*, 9-15 and 60.

Note: abbreviated references; logically abbreviate titles and use the same format throughout.

● Master bibliography listings

McNeill, J.R. and William McNeill. *The Human Web: A Bird's-Eye View of World History*. New York-London: W.W. Norton, 2003.

Payne, Richard E. *A State of Mixture: Christians, Zoroastrians, and Iranian Political Culture in Late Antiquity*. Oakland: University of California Press, 2015.

Note: invert author's name and alphabetize the master bibliography (but if there are multiple authors, invert only the first); in the master bibliography, do not indicate page numbers for monographs; single-space the bibliography; add a carriage return between entries.



► ARTICLE IN AN ACADEMIC JOURNAL

● First footnote reference

⁶⁵ Joseph Fletcher, “Integrative History: Parallels and Interconnections in the Early Modern Period, 1500–1800,” *Journal of Turkish Studies* 9 (1985): 50.

Note: article title appears in double quotation marks; journal title is italicized; “9” here is the volume number of the journal; observe the use of the colon before the page(s) cited.

● Additional footnote references

⁶⁶ Fletcher, “Integrative History,” 37–40.

● Master bibliography listing

Fletcher, Joseph. “Integrative History: Parallels and Interconnections in the Early Modern Period, 1500–1800,” *Journal of Turkish Studies* 9 (1985): 37–57.

Note: invert author’s name and alphabetize list; pages in the bibliography indicate full range for the article.



*For other publications, contact Dr. Rapp, review
the Chicago-System Quick Guide PDF,
and/or visit the Chicago Manual of Style’s website
www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html*