Syllabus Hist: 952 952 “Seminar in Comparative History”

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Office Hours: Monday 3:30-5, or by appointment

The primary goal of this class is for you to dramatically increase your understanding of a particular field of history through careful reading of list of books you have prepared in consultation with your advisor. Secondary, but significant, goals are for you a) to become comfortable talking about your specialty with historians of other fields, b) to learn about methodological trends in other fields, c) see how similar methodological trends are manifested differently in various fields.

Format & Assignments:

Read one of the books on your list for each class meeting. Come prepared to make a brief oral presentation on your book. We may not have time to hear all the presentations every week.

Presentations should follow the basic format of a book review in a professional journal, addressing content, method, contribution & success of the argument. The presentations will need to deal with these elements in an abbreviated form. Presentations will ideally last 5 minutes.

In addition to oral presentations you will write one 750-word book review and two 1200-word book reviews. You may choose which books to write your reviews on, and which weeks you will hand them in. You need to tell me when you will be doing your reviews by February 4th.

1. 1/28 Organization
2. 2/4 Identity, Race, Community


g. John Porco: Imagined Communities – Benedict Anderson


3. 2/11 Gender, Community


g. John Porco: The Emergence of Modern Turkey – Bernard Lewis


4. 2/18 Memory, Community


g. John Porco: Cultures of Conflict – Bernard Lewis
5. 2/25 Knowledge, memory, cultural construction, historiography
   g. John Porco: Venture of Islam – Marshall Hodgson

6. 3/4 Wealth, Charity, Community & Society
7. 3/11 Wealth, Commerce & Labor
   a. Dzhambul Akkaziev: M. Malia, Alexander Herzen
   d. Essame: Lara Putnam, Radical Moves: Caribbean Migrants and the Politics of Race in the Jazz Age
   g. John Porco: Islamic Roots of Capitalism – Peter Gran

8. 3/18 Culture & Ideas
   a. Dzhambul Akkaziev: V. Frede, Doubt, Atheism, and the 19th century Russian intelligentsia
   g. John Porco: Islam and the Moral Economy – Charles Tripp

9. 4/1 Environment


g. Porco: Desert Kingdom – Toby Jones


10. 4/8 Empire, Power

a. Akkaziev: Fediashin, Anton Liberals under Autocracy


g. Porco: The Prize – Daniel Yergin

11. 4/15 Colonialism
   g. Porco: Max Weber and Islam

12. 4/22 Diaspora
   d. Essame: Nathalie Dessens, From Saint Domingue to New Orleans: Migration and Influences (Gainsville, 2007)
   g. Porco: Orientalism—Edward Said
13. 4/29 Belief, emotions
   g. Porco: Iran Islam and Democracy – Ali Ansari

14. 5/5 Violence
   g. Porco: Power Faith and Fantasy – Michael Oren