Transnational Histories: Approaches beyond Borders

HIGR 200 History & Social Theory
Th., 4-6.50
rm. 5086

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This seminar is designed to introduce graduate students to methods, theories, and critiques of writing history in global perspective. Over the course of the term we survey how scholars of diverse disciplinary backgrounds have attempted to both analyze global change and cull meaning from global integration. We begin by considering the concepts through which scholars have explained and typified global interactions. We then take a closer look at how certain themes have been used to narrate human history as well as the problems and prejudices posed by thinking across boundaries. Finally, we evaluate emerging paradigms for interpreting global relation and the historicity of contemporary globalization studies. Through the readings and discussions, we will assess the methodological and theoretical contributions of each analyst and, by critically reflecting on these, we can expand our own analytical tool-kits.

EVALUATION METHOD:
During each meeting a student, or group of students, will present their reflections on the week’s readings. The only written assignment is to develop over the course of the quarter a cumulative annotated bibliography based on the course readings. To this end, each week you will submit a critical abstract of the week’s readings. The abstracts should be roughly 500-600 words in length, or no longer than one full page, 12-point font, single-spaced. Abstracts should highlight the key arguments of the author, the importance of such arguments, and any critiques you might have of the work—particularly in relation to the other material covered in the course. Please email these to me before each class meeting. At the end of the course you will be required to submit a compilation of all the abstracts. Your grade will be determined by this compilation and you may revise any of your abstracts before submitting the cumulative annotated bibliography. The final annotated bibliography is due June 9. Please forward it to my email address (jprestholdt@ucsd.edu) in .rtf or .doc format.

NOTE: supplemental readings are not required.

schedule of meetings

meeting one – Introductions

meeting two — Taxonomy

meeting three — Time


meeting four — Scapes


meeting five — Discourse


meeting six — Diaspora


meeting seven — Ecology


meeting eight – Economy


meeting nine – Empire

meeting ten – Marginality