Transnational Histories: Approaches beyond Borders

HIGR 200 History & Social Theory
W 12-2.50
HSS 3086
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This seminar is designed to introduce graduate students to methods, theories, and critiques of writing history in transnational 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 transnational interactions. We then take a closer look at how certain themes have been used to narrate human history as well as the problems posed by thinking across boundaries. Finally, we evaluate emerging paradigms for interpreting translocal 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 assigned 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 March 20. Please forward it to my email address (jprestholdt@ucsd.edu) in .doc or .docx format.

NOTE: supplemental readings are not required.

schedule of meetings

meeting one – Introductions

meeting two — Taxonomy

meeting three — Scapes


meeting four — Discourse

meeting five — Time


meeting six — Marginalization


meeting seven — Empire


**meeting eight – Diaspora**

supplemental:

**meeting nine – Economy**


meeting ten — Ecology