Global History: Approaches to the Modern Era

HIGR 281
Wed. 12-2.50
HSS 6008

Jeremy Prestholdt
Office hours: Wed. 5-6
858.534.1996
jprestholdt@ucsd.edu

This seminar is designed to introduce graduate students to methods, theories, and critiques of writing global history. 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 historiographical essay 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 historiographical essay. The complete historiographical essay should be emailed to me (jprestholdt@ucsd.edu) in .doc or .docx format.

NOTE: supplemental readings are not required.

schedule of meetings

January 7 . meeting one – Introductions

January 14 . meeting two — Taxonomy


January 21. meeting three — Scapes


January 28. meeting four — Discourse


February 4. meeting five — Time

supplemental:
February 11. meeting six — Marginalization


February 18. meeting seven – Empire


February 25. meeting eight – Diaspora

supplemental:

March 4. meeting nine — Ecology


**March 11. meeting ten – Economy**
