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History 599B, spring 2006
Hum 221, Th 5-6.50
Office Hours: Tu 4-5,
Wed 2-3, or by apptmt.

GLOBALIZATION IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT: CONCEPTS AND ISSUES
****GRADUATE SEMINAR****
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It has become a cliché to observe that “globalization” is the buzzword of the early 21st century. But what precisely is this phenomenon, when did it begin, and what does it encompass? What are globalization’s effects? How do they differ from place to place and time to time? Is globalization a good, bad, or mutable thing? Is it inevitable? Is it increasing? Can it be regulated or governed? Can it be stopped, and if so, should it be?

In an attempt to provide some answers to these questions, we will be looking at the history, concepts and issues of globalization. We will range in time from the dawn of human history to the present and beyond. We will examine various dimensions of the phenomenon, including the economic, cultural, military/diplomatic, and environmental dimensions. We will look at topics as varied as information technology, narcotics trafficking, religious institutions, and nuclear weapons as constituent elements of, and contributing factors to, contemporary globalization. Hence, although this is a history course, we will be taking an interdisciplinary approach to the subject, with readings and discussions grounded not only in historical scholarship, but in political science, economics, sociology, religious studies, and environmental studies as well. This course, its themes and its readings should not be considered the last word on the subject of globalization, of course, but it will serve as a “first word.”

Moreover, students will have the opportunity to look at globalization not only from the point of view of students, but from that of decision makers as well. The two substantive writing assignments (the first, 6-7pp.; the second, 11-12pp) will place everyone in the role of advisors writing memoranda, on the basis of their developing understanding of globalization, to bosses who are “movers and shakers,” whether in the public, private, or non-governmental non-profit realms.

Additionally, students will be writing brief (2.5-3pp) reaction papers in response to individual readings assigned for the course. There will be no exams.

SYLLABUS

Week One (1/26): Course Introduction

Week Two (2/2): An Overview of Historical Approaches to Globalization
A.G. Hopkins, ed., *Globalization in World History*

Weeks Three and Four (2/9, 2/16): Cultural Globalization:

Jerry H. Bentley, *Old World Encounters: Cross-Cultural Contacts and Exchanges in Pre-Modern Times*

Stephen Kern, *The Culture of Time and Space, 1880-1918*

Weeks Five and Six (2/23, 3/2): Environmental Globalization:

Jared Diamond, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*

Alfred Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe 900-1900*

Weeks Seven and Eight (3/9, 3/16): Economic Globalization:

Kevin H. O'Rourke and Jeffrey G. Williamson, *Globalization and History: The Evolution of a Nineteenth-Century Economy*

Paul Gootenberg, ed., *Cocaine: Global Histories*

Weeks Nine and Ten (3/23, 3/30): Military Globalization:

Frank McLynn, 1759: *The Year Britain Became Master of the World*

Gerard J. DeGroot, *The Bomb: A Life*

“Statement of Rohan Gunaratna to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States,” 2003, at http://www.globalsecurity.org/security/library/congress/9-11_commission/030709-gunaratna.htm (read for First Memorandum Paper)

****FIRST MEMORANDUM PAPER DUE 4/6****

Weeks Eleven and Twelve (4/6, 4/20): Global Institutions

Akira Iriye, *Global Community: The Role of International Organizations in the Making of the Contemporary World*

Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*

Weeks Thirteen and Fourteen (4/27, 5/4): Evaluating Contemporary Globalization: Boon or Bane?

Amy Chua, *World on Fire: How Exporting Free-Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability*

Tyler Cowen, *Creative Destruction: How Globalization is Changing the World's Cultures*

****FINAL MEMORANDUM PAPER DUE 5/10****