

HTST 645: Topics in U.S. History. The United States and the Nineteenth-Century World

Winter Semester 2017

Instructor: Dr. Frank Towers

Class Times: Tuesdays 4-6:45 p.m.,

Room: SS 613

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursdays 12-1 p.m.

Contact information: Office, SS 610; e-mail ftowers@ucalgary.ca; office phone 403-220-6406. Please note, there is no voicemail for my office phone. Use email to leave a message.

Course Description: Since the 1990s, the study of U.S. history has been deeply influenced by transnational and global-comparative approaches. In light of this development, this module considers the U.S. Civil War from a global perspective. In particular it focuses on the relationship between the U.S. and the broader trends of the nineteenth century. Those trends went far beyond state-to-state diplomacy and war, the more familiar context for studying the U.S. internationally. They also encompassed the adaptation of fossil fuels in place of solar, wind, and water power; new concepts of nationalism and national identity; the decline of slavery and other forms of forced labor; the economic and political ascendancy of western Europe and North America at the expense of South and East Asia; new understandings of the family and gender; and religious revivalism. This course emphasizes historiography—i.e. how historians have written about the past—over a strict chronology of events. The course will benefit specialists in U.S. history as well as non-specialists seeking to better understand the main themes of nineteenth-century world history.

Method of assessment

| Item | Percent of course grade | Date |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Midterm paper | 35% | March 3, 2016 |
| Final paper | 40% | April 23, 2016 |
| Participation | 25% | weekly |

Seminar participation: Students are obliged to attend *all seminars*. If you are required to miss a seminar due to illness or bereavement, you must inform me via email as soon as possible (preferably before the seminar) and submit documentation to me within two weeks of your absence.

Mid-term paper. Students will turn in a paper of at least 2,500 words (computer printed, double spaced). Distributed at least three weeks in advance of the due date, the paper topics (students will choose from a range of 3-5) will ask student to analyze interpretive issues in the reading assigned between week 1 and week .

Final paper: At the end of the term, students will turn in a paper of at least 3,000 words (computer printed, double spaced). Distributed at least three weeks in advance of the due date, the paper topics (students will choose from a range of 3-5) will ask student to analyze interpretive issues in the reading assigned between week 6 and week 10.

Participation

Student participation is essential to the success of the seminar. Each week students should prepare to discuss the assigned reading in class. The participation mark is based on the following factors:

- Regular attendance
- Consistent contributions to class discussion
- Demonstrate working knowledge of the assigned reading. In other words, your contributions show an accurate, informed understanding of the book's topic, thesis, and evidence.
- Critical analysis of the assigned reading that goes beyond summary. In addition to demonstrating a working knowledge of the text, you should also think about the strengths and weaknesses of the book and how the historian in question relates their ideas to other topics considered for this course.

Paper format: Style should conform to the most recent edition *Chicago Manual of Style: 15th Ed.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press). The book is available electronically through the University of Calgary library. For the basic citation guide (also in the full version) see:

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Late paper policy: The paper grade will be lowered by one-third (e.g. from a B+ to a B) for each day late. The weekend counts as two days.

Assigned reading

Refer to the following list of meeting and assignments for you should be reading each week. The book or article listed for that week should be read in advance. Be prepared to discuss them in seminar.

Required reading, in order of assignment.

- Jürgen Osterhammel, *The Transformation of the World : A Global History of the Nineteenth Century*, trans., Patrick Camiller, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014). Available as an e-book through the U of C library.
- Kariann Akemi Yokota, *Unbecoming British: How Revolutionary America Became a Postcolonial Nation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014). Three e-book copies are available through the U of C library.
- David Armitage, *The Declaration of Independence: A Global History* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2008). Available for purchase at the U of C Bookstore and other sellers. A copy is on reserve at the TFDL.

- W. Caleb McDaniel, *The Problem of Democracy in the Age of Slavery* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2013). Three e-book copies are available through the U of C library.
- Don H. Doyle, *The Cause of All Nations: An International History of the American Civil War* (New York: Basic Books, 2014). Two e-book copies are available through the U of C library.
- Jay Sexton, *The Monroe Doctrine: Empire and Nation in Nineteenth-Century America* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2011). Available for purchase at the U of C Bookstore and other sellers. A copy is on reserve at the TFDL.
- Stephen R. Platt, *Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom: China, the West, and the Epic Story of the Taiping Civil War* (New York: Knopf, 2012). Available for purchase at the U of C Bookstore and other sellers. A copy is on reserve at the TFDL.
- Rebecca Scott, *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005). Available for purchase at the U of C Bookstore and other sellers. A copy is on reserve at the TFDL.
- Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton: A Global History* (New York: Knopf, 2014). Available for purchase at the U of C Bookstore and other sellers. A copy is on reserve at the TFDL.
- Leon Fink, *The Long Gilded Age: American Capitalism and the Lessons of a New World Order* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015). Three e-book copies are available through the U of C library.
- Ian Tyrell, *Reforming the World: The Creation of America's Moral Empire* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010). Five e-book copies are available through the U of C library.

Recommended textbooks

Lawrence A. Peskin and Edmund F. Wehrle, *America and the World: Culture, Commerce, Conflict* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011) and Ian Tyrell, *Transnational Nation: United States History in Global Perspective since 1789* (Basingstoke, Eng.: Palgrave MacMillan, 2007). Although not required for the course, students seeking a general background on U.S. history in a global context will find of these general surveys very helpful. Both books are on reserve at the TFDL.

Schedule of Seminars and Assignments

Week 1, Jan. 9-13: Introduction

Week 2, Jan. 16-20: The 19th century world

Jürgen Osterhammel, *The Transformation of the World : A Global History of the Nineteenth Century*, trans,. Patrick Camiller, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014). Available as an e-book through the U of C library.

Week 3, Jan. 23-27: Revolution

Reading: Kariann Akemi Yokota, *Unbecoming British: How Revolutionary America Became a Postcolonial Nation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014). Three e-book copies are available through the U of C library.

Week 4, Jan.30-Feb. 3: Natural rights

Reading: David Armitage, *The Declaration of Independence: A Global History* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2008). Available for purchase at the U of C Bookstore and other sellers. A copy is on reserve at the TFDL.

Week 5, Feb. 6-Feb. 10: Antislavery

Reading: W. Caleb McDaniel, *The Problem of Democracy in the Age of Slavery* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2013). Three e-book copies are available through the U of C library.

Week 6, Feb. 13-17: America's Civil War and the World

Assigned reading: Don H. Doyle, *The Cause of All Nations: An International History of the American Civil War* (New York: Basic Books, 2014). Two e-book copies are available through the U of C library.

Mid-term Break, Feb. 19-26, no classes scheduled.

Week 7, Feb. 27-Mar. 3: Paper discussion

No assigned reading.

Midterm paper due March 3. Turn paper in via D2L dropbox link.

Week 8, Mar. 6-10: The Paradox of American Empire

Reading: Jay Sexton, *The Monroe Doctrine: Empire and Nation in Nineteenth-Century America* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2011). Available for purchase at the U of C Bookstore and other sellers. A copy is on reserve at the TFDL.

Week 9, Mar. 13-17: China's Civil War and the West

Reading: Stephen R. Platt, *Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom: China, the West, and the Epic Story of the Taiping Civil War* (New York: Knopf, 2012). Available for purchase at the U of C Bookstore and other sellers. A copy is on reserve at the TFDL.

Week 10, Mar. 20-24: Race and Emancipation

Reading: Rebecca Scott, *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005). Available for purchase at the U of C Bookstore and other sellers. A copy is on reserve at the TFDL.

Week 11, Mar. 27-31: Capitalism

Reading: Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton: A Global History* (New York: Knopf, 2014). Available for purchase at the U of C Bookstore and other sellers. A copy is on reserve at the TFDL.

Week 12, Apr. 3-7: Organized Labour

Reading: Leon Fink, *The Long Gilded Age: American Capitalism and the Lessons of a New World Order* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015).

Three e-book copies are available through the U of C library.

Week 13, Apr. 10-12, Culture

Reading: Ian Tyrell, *Reforming the World: The Creation of America's Moral Empire* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010). Five e-book copies are available

through the U of C library.

Final paper due April 21. Turn paper in via D2L dropbox link.

Other course policies

Makeups and legitimate excuses: Documentation of medical and family emergencies (death or illness) or university-related activities is required to make up exams and quizzes.

Classroom etiquette: Class begins at 4:00 p.m. Please be present at that time and refrain from side conversations and other behavior that will distract your fellow students. For the same reason please turn off cell phones.

Use of electronic devices in class to take notes is permitted but not encouraged. Studies have found that students who take notes with pen and paper retain more information than those using electronic devices. I recommend taking notes with a pen or pencil and paper. For some of this research see: Pam A. Mueller and Daniel M. Oppenhemier, "The Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking," *Psychological Science* 25 (June 2014): 1159-1168.

Use of electronic devices in class to engage social media is prohibited. Do not text, email, surf the web, or otherwise use social media during class.

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Departmental Twitter Handle @ucalgaryhist - For departmental updates and notifications

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but

also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (SS 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: course name and number, instructor, your name and your student number. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

| Percentage | Letter Grade | Grade Point Value | Description |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 90-100 | A+ | 4.00 | Outstanding |
| 85-89 | A | 4.00 | Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter. |

| Percentage | Letter Grade | Grade Point Value | Description |
|------------|--------------|-------------------|---|
| 80-84 | A- | 3.70 | |
| 77-79 | B+ | 3.30 | |
| 73-76 | B | 3.00 | Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete. |
| 70-72 | B- | 2.70 | |
| 67-69 | C+ | 2.30 | |
| 63-66 | C | 2.00 | Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter. |
| 60-62 | C- | 1.70 | Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. |
| 56-59 | D+ | 1.30 | Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject. |
| 50-55 | D | 1.00 | |
| 0-49 | F | 0 | Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements. |

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook*

(http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf), plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI Surveys.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected grounds other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

Other Useful Information:

- Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
- *Safewalk and Campus Security*: 403-220-5333.

Please also familiarize yourself about the following topics by consulting the information at these links:

- *Freedom of Information*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>
- *Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
- *Safewalk*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>
- *Student Union Information*: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>
- *Graduate Student Association*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>
- *Student Ombudsman Office*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>