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Cross-Cultural Encounters in World History

HIST 4820-005
CRN 86980
Dr. Denis Gainty
Office: 34 Peachtree, #2138

Fall 2010
GCB 521 TR 2:50-4:35 pm
dgainty@gsu.edu
Office Hours: Th 10 am - 12 noon or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to cross-cultural contact in the writing of world history. In doing so, the course uses monographs and articles in order to explore the many and surprising ways in which different cultural spheres have touched one another, and how those points of contact not only transform individual cultures but form the basis of world history. Equally importantly, the course seeks to examine the idea of cultures, and particularly how useful cultures are (or aren't) in telling the story of humans and ideas that cultures purport to represent.

An important goal of HIST 4820 is the presentation of contact among cultures that challenge standard interpretations of the so-called "Modern Age" and European exploration. Long before Europeans started sailing around the planet in the mid to late 1400s, humans affected one another through vast and complex networks, both deliberate and accidental, and the story of cross-cultural encounters before Columbus is a rich and important one. The course will therefore present examples of cross-cultural interactions before the modern age. Moreover, even after the rise of modern European networks, cross-cultural interactions were more interesting and complex than the standard story of White domination and control. Thus, the course also presents examples of modern contact that enrich our understanding of power and culture in world history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course has three main goals. **First**, the course uses monographs and articles to present students with examples of cross-cultural interactions in world history. **Second**, the course uses **exercises in critical reading and writing** to help students understand the narratives that make sense of those examples. **Third**, the course's requirements equip students with the tools necessary to observe and interpret the specific and general significance of cross-cultural encounters in any historical context. At the end of the course, students are expected to:

1. have a reasonable command of certain cross-cultural interactions in pre-modern and modern world history, and
2. gain fluency in the observation and thoughtful consideration of cross-cultural interactions in history.

CONTACT:

You must read your GSU email. You are responsible for reading messages I send to you over GSU email. This may include assignments, schedule changes, and other important notices, so please make sure it works. Let me know if there's a problem with your email as soon as possible.

PREREQUISITES:

None.

**DEFENDANT'S
EXHIBIT**

Gainty TX 1
4-20-11 CP

GaState0066084

COURSE FORMAT:

The course meets twice weekly for one hour and forty minutes per each meeting. The course will include both lecture and discussion components, and successful participation in the course requires that you read each assignment for class on the day it is listed. Please note that unannounced quizzes based on the course reading will be a part of your grade (see COURSE EVALUATION, below).

COURSE READINGS:

Many course readings are available on this course's E-RESERVE site (**password: gbdttstf**). In addition, students are required to purchase and read the following texts:

1. Bentley, Jerry. *Old World Encounters: Cross-Cultural Contacts and Exchanges in Pre-Modern Times*. New York: Oxford University Press 1993. ISBN 978-0195076400
2. Foltz, Richard. *Religions of the Silk Road: Overland Trade and Cultural Exchange from Antiquity to the Fifteenth Century*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan 1999. ISBN 978-0312233389
3. McNeill, William. *Plagues and Peoples*. New York: Anchor/Doubleday. 1998. ISBN 978-0385121224
4. Dudden, Alexis. *Japan's Colonization of Korea: Discourse and Power*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. 2005. ISBN 978-0824831394
5. Obeyesekere, Gananath. *The Apotheosis of Captain Cook*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1992 ISBN 978-0691057521

COURSE EVALUATION:**Attendance: 10%**

Absences are only excused for documented medical or GSU-authorized athletic reasons. **More than five unexcused absences will result in your being dropped from the course.**

Participation: 15%

You must participate by contributing your own thoughtful observations, questions, and comments in class discussions and in on-line fora. A successful, interesting class depends on everyone's participation – but if that's not reason enough, then do it for your grade.

Quizzes: 5%

Pop quizzes will constitute 5% of your final grade. They will always be based on the assigned reading for that day, and they will always be administered at the beginning of class. No makeups are possible.

Short Response Papers: 40% (four papers @ 10% each)

You will write four short (2-3 pages) papers during the course of the semester. Each paper will be an opportunity to analyze the readings in that section of the course in light of a central question about cross-cultural interactions. More information will be made available during the semester.

Final Paper: 30%

You will write one final paper of 10-12 pages in which you incorporate course and outside readings in order to present and discuss the issues of cross-cultural interaction dealt with in the final weeks of our course (Obeyesekere's *The Apotheosis of Captain Cook*). More information on the final paper assignment will be made available during the semester.

Extra Credit: In the event that I find out about informative and relevant lectures at GSU, I may choose to count attendance and written response thereto as extra credit. Or I may not. Either way, I'll let you know.

PLAGIARISM:

Students are required to be familiar with and adhere to Georgia State University's Policy on Academic Honesty as outlined in the University Catalog (Section 409). Plagiarism or any form of cheating on any assignment for this class typically results in an automatic failing grade for the entire class, although more substantial disciplinary action may also apply.

There exist a number of ethical reasons against plagiarizing someone else's work. Because we live in a morally flexible universe, however, these may not resonate with you. Plagiarizing also sabotages your own education, as it short-circuits the actual learning that inevitably occurs when you do your own work; plagiarism is, essentially, a move to avoid experiencing your own life. Like cheating, plagiarism says: "My own ideas are not interesting or worthwhile; I am a human being so timid and devoid of value that I will steal from someone else rather than present my own self. I suck." But this, too, might not convince you, as students in the United States and elsewhere take an increasingly consumerist attitude towards education – working for a degree and not for the learning or life experience that the degree represents.

But even if those arguments fail to convince you, please be aware that plagiarism is depressingly easy to catch and prove. Cutting and pasting an entire wikipedia entry, for example – or anything from the internet, for that matter – is not a particularly crafty move. A good rule of thumb regarding the internet is: if a student could find it, so can the professor. Similarly easy to catch is the plagiarism from a printed scholarly source; sudden changes in a student's writing style are easy to spot and difficult to justify. The irony is that really high-quality, successful plagiarism is in almost all cases more difficult and time-consuming than simply doing the actual assignment.

Luckily, plagiarism is easy to avoid if you follow this basic rule of thumb: **give clear credit for all work that is not entirely your own.** For questions about plagiarism see <http://www2.gsu.edu/~geotel/plagiarism%20links.html>.

Late Work: Late work will be penalized except in the very rare cases where I grant an extension before the due date. **No extensions will be granted after the assignment's due date for any reason. Internet, computer, or printing issues are not sufficient grounds for an extension.** Late papers will lose a third of a letter grade for each day; a paper that is one day late will fall from an A to an A-, or from a B+ to a B, et cetera.

Evaluations: Your constructive assessment of the course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.

Accommodations: Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought.

Questions or concerns: Please contact me by email or see me during office hours if you have any problems or concerns about the course, your understanding of the material, or anything else. **PLEASE make sure to let me know if you are having problems that may have an adverse affect on your performance in the class.** It's much easier to prevent a bad grade than to try to overcome it after the fact.

DISCLAIMER:

Like so many things in life, this syllabus cannot guarantee anything about the future. Please therefore be aware that **this course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.**

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Tuesday August 24	Introduction
Thursday 26	What Is Culture, Anyway? Blumenthal, Albert. 1940. "A New Definition of Culture" in <i>American Anthropologist</i> , New Series Vol. 42 No 4 Part 1 (Oct-Dec) 571-586 Excerpt from Kroeber, A.L. and C. Kluckhohn. 1952. <i>Culture: A Critical Review of Concepts and Definitions</i> . Cambridge, MA: The Museum.
Tuesday August 31	PART 1: Trade and Religion on the Silk Road Bentley, <i>Old World Encounters</i> 3-28
Thursday September 2	Silk Road Continued Bentley 29-66 Foltz, <i>Religions of the Silk Road</i> : 1-21
Tuesday 7	Silk Road Continued Bentley 67-89 Foltz 23-59
Thursday 9	Silk Road Continued Christian, David. "Silk Roads or Steppe Roads? The Silk Roads in World History" in <i>Journal of World History</i> , vol 11 no 1 (Spring 2000) 1-26
Tuesday 14	Short Paper #1 Due: Silk Road Culture PART 2: Oops: Unintended Consequences in Cross- Cultural Encounters McNeill, <i>Plagues and Peoples</i> 1-94
Thursday 16	More disease McNeill 94-160
Tuesday 21	Measly Mongols McNeill 161-207
Thursday 23	Measly Mongols McNeill 208-295
Tuesday 28	Pests and Perspective McCormick, Michael. "Rats, Communications, and Plague: Toward an Ecological History" in <i>Journal of Interdisciplinary History</i> , vol 34 no 1 Summer 2003 pp 1-25 Harrison, Mark. "The Tender Frame of Man': Disease,

Climate, and Racial Difference in India and the West Indies 1760-1860" in *The Bulletin of the History of Medicine* Vol 70 No 1 Spring 1996 68-93

Anderson, Warwick. "Immunities of Empire: Race, Disease, and the New Tropical Medicine, 1900-1920" in *The Bulletin of the History of Medicine* Vol 70 No 1 Spring 1996

Thursday 30

What Is Sick, Anyway?

Lindenbaum, Shirley. "Kuru, Prions, and Human Affairs: Thinking About Epidemics" in *Annual Review of Anthropology*, vol 30 2001 363-385

Tuesday October 5

Short Paper #2 Due: History Makes Me Sick

PART 3: Early Empire and the Middle Kingdom
"Japan in the Chinese Dynastic Histories" in de Bary et. al. (eds.) 2001 *Sources of Japanese Tradition* volume I. New York: Columbia University Press. 5-13

and

Clark, Donald. "Sino-Korean Tributary Relations Under the Ming" in Twitchett, Denis C. and Frederick W. Mote (eds.) *The Cambridge History of China*, vol 8 part 2: *The Ming Dynasty*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1998. 272-300

Thursday 7

Case Study: China As Center

Fairbank, J.K. "Tributary Trade and China's Relations with the West" in *The Far Eastern Quarterly*, Vol. 1, No. 2 (Feb. 1942) 129-149.

Tuesday October 12

China As Center

Knapp, Ronald G. "Chinese Frontier Settlement in Taiwan" in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* vol 66 no 1 (March 1976) 43-59

Thursday 14

China As Center

Andrade, Tonio. "The Company's Chinese Pirates: How the Dutch East India Company Tried To Lead a Coalition of Pirates to War Against China, 1621-1662" in *Journal of World History*, vol 15 no 4 (Dec 2004) 415-444

Tuesday 19

Short Paper #3 Due: How Middle Is Your Kingdom?

PART 4: Imperial Follies: Power, Sex, Race, and Medicine in Modern Cross-Cultural Contact

1. Margaret Kohn's online entry in Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy on colonialism

(<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/colonialism/>)

2. Kipling's "White Man's Burden" in Internet History Sourcebook
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/Kipling.html>
3. Readings from Hobson, John A. *Imperialism* London: James Nisbet & Co., 1902. 1-10, 119-152
http://books.google.com/books?id=b10k_ZicWZ8C&dq=hobson%20imperialism&pg=PP7#v=onepage&q=&f=false
- Thursday 21 Early Thoughts on the (Evil?) Empire
Hobson 235-297
- Tuesday 26 Empire and race
Dudden, *Japan's Colonization of Korea: Discourse and Power*
1-73
- Thursday 28 Empire and race, part 2
Dudden 74-146
- Tuesday November 2 Did you vote?
Empire and sex
Chung, Chin Sung. "The Origin and Development of the Military Sexual Slavery Problem in Imperial Japan" in Choi, Chungmoo (ed.) 1997. "The Comfort Women: Colonialism, War, and Sex" in Special issue of *positions: east asia cultures critique* 5:1. Durham: Duke University Press 219-253
- Thursday 4 Empire and medicine
Keller, Richard. "Madness and Colonization: Psychiatry in the British and French Empires, 1800-1962" in *Journal of Social History* vol 35 no 2 (Winter 2001) 295-326
- Tuesday 9 **Short Paper #4 Due: Imperial Follies**

PART 5: Points of View in Cross-Cultural Contact
Or
Two Academics Rip Each Other New Ones
Begin Obeyesekere, *The Apotheosis of Captain Cook* (xiii-48)
- Thursday 11 Continue Obeyesekere (to p. 119)
- Tuesday 16 Finish Obeyesekere (120-191)
- Thursday 18 Sahlins, Marshall. "Introduction" *How "Natives" Think: About Captain Cook, For Example*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1996. 1-15
- Tuesday 23 Thanksgiving: no class (think about your paper, though!)

Thursday 25

Thanksgiving: no class (keep thinking while eating)

Tuesday 30

Abu-Lughod, Lila: "Writing Against Culture" in Fox,
Richard G. *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present*.
Santa Fe: School of American Research Press, 1991 137-154,
161-162

Thursday December 2 NO CLASS: Individual Meetings for Final Paper

Final paper due Thursday, December 9 at 4 pm in my office.