

Northeastern University
Department of History
Winter 1998

HST 3503 - Approaches to World History
Wednesday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
206 Meserve

Patrick Manning
Office: Wednesday 3-5 p.m., 229 Meserve Hall

This graduate-level course surveys -- rapidly -- the content of world history and the approaches of world historians. It is designed to provide guidance to students preparing to teach world history at college and high school levels, and to those seeking background for more specialized topical, temporal and regional study of world history.

Each class will include an hour of lecture and an hour of discussion and reports. In both lecture and discussion, we will balance our emphasis between (A) content and conceptualization of world history and (B) teaching materials and teaching techniques in world history.

Required texts:

Andrea and Overfield, The human record, 2 vols. (weeks 2-10)
Sanderson, Civilizations and World Systems (weeks 1-2)
Niane, Sundiata, an epic of old Mali (week 6)
Crosby, The Columbian exchange (week 7)
Voltaire, Candide (week 8)

Additional readings and handouts:

Bibliography of major works in world history
Bibliography of teaching materials in world history
Reserved readings, required and optional
Drafts of writings in progress by the instructor
Postings to H-WORLD, the e-mail discussion list in world history

Student assignments:

Critique of a world history textbook
Conceptual paper in world history (3000 words)
Thematic paper in world history (3000 words)
Final Exam

Topics of weekly lectures and discussion:

1. January 7. Framework and Method.
2. January 14. Early history. Civilizations.
Reading: Sanderson, Civilizations and World Systems
Andrea & Overfield, I:5-116
*Andrea & Overfield, 3rd ed., P-1 to P-21

3. January 21. The classical era. Interactions.
 Reading: Andrea & Overfield, I:117-166
 *J. Bentley, "Cross-Cultural Interaction and Periodization in World History"
 *C. Stringer, "The Emergence of Modern Humans," Scientific American (December 1990)
 *L. Cavalli-Sforza, "Genes, Peoples and Languages," Scientific American (November 1991)
 *C. Renfrew, "World Linguistic Diversity," Scientific American (January 1994)
 *J. Greenberg & M. Ruhlen, "Linguistic Origins of Native Americans," Scientific American (November 1992)
4. January 28. Medieval era.
 Reading: Andrea & Overfield, I:167-242
 *W. McNeill, "The Rise of the West after Twenty-Five Years," Journal of World History 1 (1990)
 *P. Manning, "The Problem of Interaction in World History"
5. February 4. Medieval era.
 Reading: Niane, Sundiata
 Andrea & Overfield, I:243-380
 *D. Christian, "The Case for 'Big History'," Journal of World History 2 (1991)
Conceptual paper due in class.
6. February 11. Early modern era.
 Reading: Crosby, The Columbian Exchange
 Andrea & Overfield, I:381-450
 Andrea & Overfield, II:1-136
7. February 18. Eighteenth century.
 Reading: Voltaire, Candide
 Andrea & Overfield, II:137-256
 P. Manning, "Person and Nation: The World Since 1700" (selections in draft form)
Critique of textbook due in class.
8. February 25. Nineteenth century.
 Reading: Andrea & Overfield, II:257-374

9. March 4. Twentieth century.
Reading: Andrea & Overfield, II:375-536
Thematic paper due in class.
10. March 11. Review.
11. March 18. Final Exam.

HST 3503 - Approaches to World History

Manning

Packet:

1. Alfred J. Andrea and James Overfield, eds., The Human Record, 3rd ed., P1 to P21.
1. C. Stringer, "The Emergence of Modern Humans," Scientific American (December 1990).
2. L. Cavalli-Sforza, "Genes, Peoples and Languages," Scientific American (November 1991).
3. C. Renfrew, "World Linguistic Diversity," Scientific American (January 1994).
4. J. Greenberg & M. Ruhlen, "Linguistic Origins of Native Americans," Scientific American (November 1992).
5. William H. McNeill, "The Rise of the West after twenty-five years," Journal of World History 1 (1990), 1-22.
6. David Christian, "The Case for 'Big History'," Journal of World History 2 (1991), 223-38.

World History Texts:

1. Craig, Albert M., et al, The Heritage of World Civilizations, 3rd ed. (Macmillan, 1994)
2. Duiker, William J., and J. J. Spielvogel, World History (West, 1994)
3. Greaves, Richard L, et al, Civilizations of the World: The Human Adventure, 2nd ed. (Harper Collins, 1993)
4. Kishlansky, Mark, et al, Societies and Cultures in World History (Harper Collins, 1995)
5. McKay
6. McNeill, William H., A History of the Human Community, 4th ed. (Prentice-Hall, 1993)
7. Meyer, Marc Anthony, The Search for Order: Landmarks of World Civilizations (Dushkin, 1994)
8. Reilly, Kevin,
9. Stearns, Peter N., et al, The Global Experience of World Civilizations (Harper Collins, 1992)
10. Strayer, Robert W., et al, The Making of the Modern World: Connected Histories, Divergent Paths, 2nd ed. (St. Martin's, 1995)
11. Upshur
12. Wallbank, T. Walter, et al, Civilization Past and Present, 7th ed. (Harper Collins, 1992)