

Northeastern University  
Spring 2003  
HST 3592, Seminar in Global Cultural History,  
Tues. 7-9 p.m.

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The topic of this graduate seminar (i.e., research course) is cultural encounters in world history. Activities are as follows:

- Address the significance of anthropology in studies of culture.
- Distinguish between (1) initial encounters of groups and their cultural ramifications and (2) subsequent encounters of similar groups and their cultural ramifications.
- Explore frameworks and methods of cultural history at the global level.
- Read and discuss for five weeks to address these issues.
- Select a region for which encounters of both types are relatively well documented (Mexico, Caribbean, South Pacific, West Africa, South Africa, South Asia, Indonesia, etc.).
- Write a conceptual paper (due May 6), articulating the general character of initial cultural encounters as contrasted with later cultural encounters.
- Write a regional paper (due May 27), giving empirical descriptions of both initial and subsequent encounters in the selected region, including the nature of cultural conflicts, debates, sharing, and transformation.

Required readings:

Adam Kuper, *Culture: The Anthropologists' Account* (Harvard U.P.)

Patricia Seed, *Ceremonies of Possession* (Cambridge U.P.)

Julia Clancy-Smith and Frances Gouda, eds., *Domesticating the Empire*  
(Virginia)

Patrick Manning: *Navigating World History: Historians Create a Global Past*  
(Palgrave)

plus additional articles to be assigned and duplicated.

Week 1. April 1.

Introduction. Select regions of analysis; schedule course activities.

Week 2. April 8.

Discuss Reading: Kuper, *Culture: The Anthropologists' Account*

Week 3. April 15.

Discuss Reading: Seed, *Ceremonies of Possession*

Week 4. April 22.

Discuss Reading: Clancy-Smith and Gouda,

Week 5. April 29.

Discuss Reading: Manning, *Navigating World History*

Week 6. May 6.

Paper due: Conceptual paper — analyzing similarities and differences of initial and subsequent encounters among two “societies.”

Week 7. May 13.

Discuss papers in preparation

Week 8. May 20.

Discuss papers in preparation

Week 9. May 27.

Paper due: Regional paper — using available empirical data to describe the processes and results of initial and subsequent encounters among the same two “societies.”