

Indiana University, Bloomington
Department of History
Fall 2017

H591/30789: Teaching World & Global History

Mon 5.45 – 7.45 pm
BH 335



Instructor: Professor Pedro Machado
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Scope and Aim of the course

Over the past 30 years or so, the field of world history has grown to become firmly established within the historical profession. This has been the case not only in the United States but also, increasingly, in other parts of the world such as China and Australia. But in the past decade, especially, the field has been gathering in strength because of the growth in interest among historians of various stripes to go beyond the confines of the nation-state model and Area Studies paradigms that have been so dominant in geographical and epistemological conceptualizations of space. This course introduces graduate students to the issues and conceptual possibilities of approaching history through a world historical or “global” framework as a mode of apprehending the past. It

will survey historiographies and methodologies, including civilizational approaches, transnational movements, migration and world systems theory. It will address specific problems such as how to rethink area divisions rooted in the Cold War and colonial eras, and how to grapple with periodization on a global scale.

The goals are to encourage students to consider research that can illuminate large-scale historical processes, engage in comparative and cross-cultural histories, or explore geographically dispersed phenomena such as international politics, borderlands and oceanic regions. They are also, particularly in the latter part of the course, to think and engage critically with the challenges of teaching world and/or global history. Although still regarded by some scholars as primarily a teaching field, world and global history are emerging prominently as research fields in their own right as scholars are drawn to the potential of translocal and transregional perspectives. Indeed, some of the most exciting, suggestive and stimulating work in the historical profession is currently being conducted in world and global history.