

**HIUS 181: US in the World**  
**Time: Thurs 10-12:50pm**  
**Nancy H. Kwak**  
**Office hours: Wed 2-4 by appointment**

**BRIEF INTRO:**

Where in the world is the United States? Although American history is by definition, nationally bounded and typically told chronologically from colonial to modern times, historians have recently begun tearing apart the nation-state as a “natural” and ever-present organizing principle. More often than not, the history of Americans falls outside the nation-state – when mass migration takes place, for instance, or when borders are disputed and cultural exchanges occur. As Tom Bender summed up neatly, “we must understand every dimension of American life as entangled in other histories. Other histories are implicated in American history, and the United States is implicated in other histories.”

This is not strictly a course on foreign relations or diplomatic history. Instead, we will examine the major themes of a traditional American history course through these new lenses of transnational, international, and global histories. We will think about how to better structure and understand the US in the world.

**GRADES:**

40% - Participation

60% - Essays

*No midterm or final exam.*

**WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT:**

**READING:** You should expect to read A LOT.

**WRITING:** You will also write **six shorter reaction papers OR two long papers** over the course of the quarter. **You cannot mix and match.** (i.e., If you start with short papers, you must do short papers for the whole quarter.) All papers must demonstrate analysis; do NOT summarize readings. Please use footnotes rather than endnotes or in-text citations.

- **The shorter papers** should be between 2-3 pages in length (**no longer**), double-spaced, and should have an original argument in reaction to at least two of the assigned readings for one week. You can choose which weeks you will be responding to, but all papers are due on the day of class. (That is, you must write your reaction paper before participating in the discussion about that week’s readings.)
- **The longer papers** should be 6-8 pages and should answer the following questions, in order:
  - *What are the decisive turning points in American history, and do they tend to be national, transnational, international, or global in character? (due Week 5)*
  - *When and how do transnational, global narratives contradict or support a view of the US as an imperial power? (due Week 10)*

To compensate for the heavy reading load, **you will have NO EXAMS in this class.**

**BOOKS:**

Thomas Bender, ed., *Rethinking American History in a Global Age* (Berkeley: UC Press, 2002). [**Rethinking**]

Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007).

Course reader. An asterisk (\*) in the syllabus means it is in the course reader.

**SCHEDULE:**

**Week 1: Breaking open the frame**

[**Rethinking**]: Part I, Part IV

\*Bruce Mazlish, “Global history and world history,” from Bruce Mazlish and Akira Iriye, eds., *The Global History Reader* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

\*Patrick Finney, “What is international history?” from Finney, *Advances in International History* (Basinstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).

\*Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (London: Verso, 1983) introduction.

\*E.J. Hobsbawm, *Nations and Nationalism since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1990) chs. 5-6.

## Week 2: Early America

[Rethinking]: Karen Kupperman, "International at the Creation" and Ian Tyrell, "Beyond the View from Euro-America"

\*Jurgen Osterhammel and Niels P. Petersson, *Globalization: A Short History* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2003) ch. III.

\*Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: the fate of human societies* (New York: WW Norton, 1997) chs. 1, 4, 5.

\*Jonathan Chu, "Imagining a World without Tea and Sugar," from Gary Reichard and Ted Dickson, *America on the World Stage: A Global Approach to US History* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2008).

\*Sidney Mintz, *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History* (New York: Penguin, 1986) chs. 2-3.

\*Karen Kupperman, ed., *Major Problems in American History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000) "The Caribbean Connection."

## Week 3: Revolution and Early Republic

\*David Armitage, *The Declaration of Independence: a global history* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2008) chs. 1-2.

\*Thomas Bender, *A nation among nations: America's place in world history* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2006) intro, chs. 1-2.

\*Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, *The Many-headed Hydra: Sailors, slaves, commoners, and the hidden history of the Revolutionary Atlantic* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2000) chs. 6-7.

\*David P. Geggus, ed., *The impact of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic world* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina, 2001) Part I.

## Week 4: Nineteenth-century slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction

[Rethinking]: Robin D.G. Kelley, "How the West was One"

\*Sven Beckert, "Emancipation and Empire: Reconstructing the Worldwide Web of Cotton Production in the Age of the American Civil War," *The American Historical Review* Vol. 109, Issue 5.

## Week 5: Frontiers and borderlands

[Rethinking]: Dirk Hoerder, "From Euro- and Afro-Atlantic to Pacific Migration System"

\*Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History"

\*Richard Maxwell Brown, "Violence" and Victoria Wyatt, "Alaska and Hawaii," in Clyde A. Milner II et al., *The Oxford History of the American West* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1994).

\*Samuel Truett, *Fugitive Landscapes: The Forgotten History of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006) ch. 5 "Transnational landscapes."

\*Rodolfo Acuna, *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos* (NY: Longman, 2000) ch. 5 "Sonora Invaded: the Occupancy of Arizona."

## Week 6: Industrialization, reform, and mass consumption

\*Jeffrey Frieden, *Global Capitalism* (New York: Norton, 2006) chs. 1-3.

\*Daniel Rodgers, *Atlantic crossings* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1998) prologue and ch. 9.

\*Victoria de Grazia, *Irresistible Empire: America's advance through 20<sup>th</sup> century Europe* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2005) chs. 1-3.

## Week 7: American empire

\*Charles Maier, *Among Empires* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2006) ch. 1 "What is empire?"

\*Ann Laura Stoler, "Tense and Tender Ties: The Politics of Comparison in North American History and (Post)Colonial Studies," from Stoler, ed., *Haunted by Empire* (Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2006).

\*Paul Kramer, *The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States and the Philippines* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006) introduction, ch. 2.

\*Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: race, sex, science, and US imperialism in Puerto Rico* (Berkeley: UC Press, 2002) ch. 1 "Sexuality, medicine, and imperialism"

\*Matthew Connelly, *Fatal Misconception* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2008) chs. 4-5.

## Week 8: Civil Rights

\*Penny von Eschen, *Rage against empire* (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1997) pp. 96-189.

\*Jeremi Suri, *Power and Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Détente* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2003) chs. 3, 5.

Film: "A Force More Powerful" (disk 1 only). *Please watch before coming to class.*

## Week 9: Cold War

Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007) chs. 1-4, 9-end.

\*Michael J. Hogan, ed., *America in the World: The historiography of American foreign relations since 1941* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1999) pp. 3-126.

## Week 10: Second-wave globalization

Charles Maier, *Among Empires* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2006) chs. 5-6.

Saskia Sassen, *The Global City* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2001) Part I.

David Harvey, *A brief history of neoliberalism* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2005) chs. 1-2.