The Birth of Globalization:  
Silk, Spices, Sugar, and Silver, before 1800
HIST194-01
MAIN 001
MWF 1:10-2:10pm

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Office Hours: M/W 4:45-5:45pm and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
What is globalization? Why did it begin? How has it transformed our world? This course explores several answers to these questions by focusing on the early exchange of global commodities. In the course, we will examine how silk, spices, sugar, slaves, silver, and other goods gave birth to the world's first full-circle network of global exchange. A comprehensive overview of this process will require us to approach these commodities from various angles. We will explore the diverse economic origins of global capitalism; we will investigate the relationship between early modern trade and imperial power; and we will also explore the cultural forces that underlay the movement of early global goods. Through an in-depth study of commodities, the course will highlight the importance of prestige, taste, religion, labor, race, identity, etc., to the beginnings of world-wide global interconnectivity.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
-Additional readings will be posted weekly on Moodle

GRADING:
-25% Participation
-25% Exams
-50% Research Project

*Participation:* Participation is vital to this class. This includes attendance, reading, talking, quizzes (if necessary), short writing assignments, and other activities designed to prompt discussion. This class is our class, not my class. To underscore this idea, each class period will involve some kind of participatory discussion or activity. It is, therefore, essential that all students do the assigned readings, prepare for discussions, attend class, and participate in course activities. I am certain that, if we all do these things, the class will be meaningful and rewarding for everyone. As part of their participation grade each student will lead one half hour discussion of the day's readings. These days will be selected and assigned during the first week in class.

*Exams:* There will be two exams given during the course of the semester: a Midterm and a Final. Each student is responsible to create their own study guides for these exams from lecture, the readings, class discussion, and films. Everything in the class is testable! Exams will be a combination of multiple choice questions, short answers, and an essay.
Research Project: Each student will be required to do a longterm course project that will consist of several smaller project assignments. This project will focus on the relationship between a noun (i.e., a person/people, place, or thing) and its globalization. Further explanations of these projects will be distributed in class.

- Project Assignment #1: Personal Essay, Globalization Encounter 10 points
- Project Assignment #2: Book Review 25 points
- Project Assignment #3: Paper/Mini-Lecture 50 points
- Project Assignment #4: Primary Document Introduction 15 points

CLASSROOM AND GRADING POLICIES
* Computers will not be permitted in class, unless otherwise noted.

*All papers and assignments are due in physical form, unless otherwise noted, at the beginning of class. Emailed assignments are, in my class, late. All late assignments will be docked 1/3 of a grade for everyday they are late. In other words, an "A" paper 2 days late becomes a "B+."] Saturday and Sunday count as only 1 day. If we do not have class on the day you want to hand in your late paper you may email it to me, but you also need to give me an identical physical copy in class. If you have a legitimate reason for not being able to complete an assignment on time, you must tell me before the assignment is due in order to avoid late penalties.

*All papers must be written in Times New Roman 12 point font and have 1 inch margins. Failure to comply with this standard will lower your grade.

*I am certain that all of you can do very well in this course. Please remember that I do not give you a grade. You earn your grade. Simply "doing" the assignment will not guarantee a 100%. "A" means "Amazing," "Awesome," or "Almost As good As Alicia keys."! "B" means "Good," which means you did a good job. Anything below that needs work.

*Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty in their college work. Forgery, cheating, and plagiarism are serious offenses and students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. If you have questions about forgery, cheating, and/or plagiarism feel free to ask me or to visit http://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/academicintegrity/

SCHEDULE:
UNIT 1: SILK
WEEK 1 (SEP 1-7)
Wed, Sep 3 - Introductions and Syllabus Overview
Fri, Sep 5 - What is Globalization?
Readings:

1 I'm specifically referencing "If I Aint Got You" and "Empire State of Mind II" (the one without Jay-Z). I'd recommend either if you are in need of some inspiration.

**WEEK 2 (SEP 8-14)**

**Mon, Sep 8 - Mini lecture: China looks West, Rome looks East**

Readings:
- Thubron, pp. 7-45.

**Wed, Sep 10 - Mini lecture: The Kushan Empire to the Golden Age: Primary documents**

Readings:

**Fri, Sep 12 - Mongols to Decline**

Readings:
- Thubron, 138-183.

**WEEK 3 (SEP 15-21)**

**Mon, Sep 15 - Ming/Qing Tribute Systems**

Readings:
- Excerpt from Craig Clunas, *Superfluous Things*
- Excerpt from Timothy Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure*
- Thubron, 184-218.

**Wed, Sep 17 - Global China and Rough Drafts**

Readings:
- Thubron, 262-293.

**DUE: Rough Drafts of Personal Essay on Encountering Globalization**

**Fri, Sep 19 - Unit Completion and Presentations**

Readings:
- Thubron, 333-346.

**DUE: Final Drafts of Personal Essay on Encountering Globalization**

**UNIT 2: SPICES**

**WEEK 4 (SEP 22-28)**

**Mon, Sep 22 - What is the Indian Ocean World?**

Readings:
- Excerpt from Stewart Gordon, *When Asia was the World: Traveling Merchants, Scholars, Warriors, and Monks who Created the 'Riches of the East'* (Boston, De Capo Press, 2009)

**Wed, Sep 24 - Indian Ocean World Before Islam**

Readings:


Fri, Sep 26 - Book Review Workshop
Readings:

WEEK 5 (SEP 29-OCT 5) Indian Ocean Intrusions
Mon, Sep 29 - Becoming an Islamic Sea
Readings:

Wed, Oct 1 - Zheng He
Readings:

Fri, Oct 3 Columbus and Da Gama
Readings:
Columbus and Da Gama Primary Sources

WEEK 6 (OCT 6-12) The Early Modern Indian Ocean World
Mon, Oct 6 - Ottomans and Safavids
Readings:
Giancarlo Casale, "Global Politics in the 1580s: One Canal, Twenty Thousand Cannibals, and an Ottoman Plot to Rule the World," *Journal of World History* 18, no. 3 (Sep., 2007), 267-296.

Wed, Oct 8 - Mughal Empire
Readings:

Fri, Oct 10 - The Swahili Coast
Readings:

WEEK 7 (OCT 13-19) European Empires
Mon, Oct 13 - The Portuguese Empire to the VOC
Readings:
Turner, 58-182
Wed, Oct 15 - Midterm Review Day
Fri, Oct 17 - The Rise of the EIC
   Readings:
      Turner, 183-311
WEEK 8 (OCT 20-26) MIDTERM
Mon, Oct 20 - Midterm
Wed, Oct 22 - Mid-Course Evaluation
   DUE: Book Reviews
Fri, Oct 24 - NO CLASS - FALL BREAK!

UNIT 3: SUGAR
WEEK 9 (OCT 27-NOV 2) Film Week Aguirre, the Wrath of God
Mon, Oct 27 - Film, Aguirre, the Wrath of God
Wed, Oct 29 - Film, Aguirre, the Wrath of God
Fri, Oct 31 - Conquest Discussion
   Readings:
      Thomas Holloway, "Whose Conquest Is This, Anyway?: Aguirre, the Wrath of God" in Based on a True Story: Latin American History at the Movies edited by Donald F. Stevens (Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources Inc., 1997), 29-46.

WEEK 10 (NOV 3-9) Columbian Exchanges
Mon, Nov 3 - Columbian Exchange, Disease
   Readings:
Wed, Nov 5 - Columbian Exchange, Food
   Readings:
      Excerpt from Charles Mann, 1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created (New York: Vintage, 2012).
Fri, Nov 7 - Portugal, Kongo, and the Origins of Atlantic Slavery
   Readings:
      Kongoese Primary Documents
      Mintz, pp. 19-74.

WEEK 11 (NOV 10-16) Slavery
Mon, Nov 10 - Slavery Continued
   Readings:
      Mintz, pp. 74-150
Wed, Nov 12 - Slavery in the Americas
   Readings:
      Mintz, 151-186.
Fri, Nov 14 - Mintz and Slavery

Slavery Primary Documents

WEEK 12 (NOV 17-23) Comparing Atlantic Empires
Mon, Nov 17 - Iberian Colonialisms (reading on Spanish/British Empires)
Readings:

Wed, Nov 19 - British Colonialisms
Readings:

Fri, Nov 21 - Presentations
Due: Research Paper

UNIT 4: SILVER
WEEK 13 (NOV 24-30)
Mon, Nov 24 - The Philippines, Silver, and a Great Convergence
Readings:

THANKSGIVING BREAK!
WEEK 14 (DEC 1-7) Documentary Excerpts: *The Ascent of Money*
Mon, Dec 1 - Watch *The Ascent of Money*
Wed, Dec 3 - Finish *The Ascent of Money*
Fri, Dec 5 - The Great Divergence
Reading:

WEEK 15 (DEC 8-14)
Mon, Dec 8 - Reviewing Major Course Themes and Course Evaluations
Reading:
  "The Birth of Globalization: The Birth of the Philippines" (draft)
Wed, Dec 10 Final Review
Due: Primary Document Introductions
WEEK 16: FINAL
Place and Time to be announced