

## HIS 397: Seminar in Comparative History

Professor Jonathan Skaff

### Book Review 1

#### Due: Wed., October 18

- Hard copy due in class with the **grading sheet on the reverse attached.**
- Electronic Copy submitted to the D2L Dropbox

#### Length: 4 to 6 pages

#### Topic:

Write a book review of *The Story of Work: A New History of Humankind* in a format suitable for publication in a scholarly journal, such as the *American Historical Review* (AHR). This type of book review places more weight on the scholarly merits of a publication than its entertainment value. The intended audience of the review is professional historians and other scholars. A good review should be concise and illuminating. The primary function of a good academic book review is to evaluate how effectively the author defends his/her thesis.

Your review should consider how the author applies comparative and/or global deep history approaches to analyze the history of work in human societies, and summarize the author's thesis and major arguments. You should argue whether *The Story of Work* succeeds as a comparative and/or global deep history by critiquing (positively or negatively) the author's comparative/deep history approach, thesis, and main arguments.

The title of your paper should be the book's bibliographic citation in Chicago A (Turabian Bibliography) format. In keeping with AHR book review style, **quotations** or **ideas** that you take from the book should be acknowledged with the page number in parentheses (p. XX). For references to other articles or books on comparative and global history that we have read in class, you should insert a footnote in Chicago A Style. *The Chicago Manual of Style* (Z253 .U69 2017) and Turabian's *A Manual For Writers* (LB2369 .T8 2018) are available at the library reserve desk. Online summaries of the two styles can be found linked to the Skaff website>Study Aids>Writing and Citation Help.

Failure to acknowledge the source of a quote or an idea is **plagiarism**. To check for plagiarism or Artificial Intelligence, *all papers must be submitted to the D2L Assignment Folder*. **Flagrant cases of plagiarism or AI usage will result in a grade of "F" for the class.**

#### Evaluation of Papers:

80% of the grade will be based on content. Content grades of A will be awarded to papers that demonstrate knowledge of comparative and global deep history and effectively summarize and critique of the book's approach, thesis and major arguments.

The other 20% will be based upon grammar and word usage (4%), spelling, capitalization and punctuation (4%), organization (4%), readability (4%), and bibliographic citation of the book at the top of the first page and any footnotes in Chicago A (Turabian Bibliography) format (4%).

## Grading sheet (attach to paper)

### I. Content (80%)

Summary of approach, thesis and arguments:    \_\_\_Excellent \_\_\_Good \_\_\_Fair \_\_\_Poor

Knowledge of comparative and global deep history: \_\_\_Excellent \_\_\_Good \_\_\_Fair \_\_\_Poor

Critique of approach, thesis and arguments:    \_\_\_Excellent \_\_\_Good \_\_\_Fair \_\_\_Poor

A=72-80, B=64-71, C=56-63, D=48-55, F=47 or lower    \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Writing mechanics (20%)

A=4, B=3.5, C=3, D=2.5, F=2 or lower

Grammar and word usage (4%)    \_\_\_\_\_

Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation (4%)    \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (4%)    \_\_\_\_\_

Readability (4%)    \_\_\_\_\_

Bibliographic citation (Chicago A)    (4%)    \_\_\_\_\_

**Total**    \_\_\_\_\_

### Correction Symbols Used in Grading Paper

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| agr    | wrong agreement (noun-verb or noun-noun)                               |
| awk    | awkward sentence   |
| cit    | citation needed  |
| frag   | sentence fragment (usually a sentence that lacks a verb)               |
| org    | organization problems  |
| redun  | redundant (using different words to say the same thing more than once) |
| rep    | repetitious use of the same word                                       |
| run-on | run-on sentence  |
| sp     | wrong spelling   |
| trans  | poor transition (between sentences or paragraphs)                      |
| tn     | wrong verb tense   |
| unc    | unclear phrase, sentence, or paragraph                                 |
| wf     | wrong grammatical form of word   |
| ww     | wrong word usage   |
| ¶      | new paragraph needed   |