

**History 397: Seminar in Comparative History, Fall 2023**  
Professor Jonathan Skaff

## **Historiographical Paper on Comparative and Global History**

**Due:** Monday, September 25

Hard copy due in class with the grading sheet on the reverse attached

Electronic Copy submitted to the D2L Dropbox in doc, docx, or rtf file format.

**Length:** 5 to 8 pages, double-spaced in 12-point font

**Topic:** Historians have been debating the definitions, purposes, and uses and misuses of comparative and global history for more than a century. Sebastian Conrad notes that the boundaries between comparative and global history are ill-defined when he writes, “In some quarters, global history has been introduced as an antidote to comparative frameworks. However, comparative history in recent years has taken a global turn as well, and indeed there are no inherent contradictions between the two approaches” (p. 39). Philippa Levine also acknowledges a degree of overlap when she urges fellow historians to among other things, “remake comparative history through an attentiveness to the interplay of the local and global” (p. 347).

Keeping these controversies in mind, write a historiographical paper that examines the degree of overlap between comparative and global history in the works of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century historians. Your paper should defend a thesis about the degree of overlap by evaluating the historiographical trends in definitions, purposes, and value of different types of comparative and global history, including their uses and misuses. Your main sources for writing the paper should be the works of Levine, Conrad, and Fillafer discussed in class. Additional research in library sources is allowed, but not necessary. **NO INTERNET SITES ARE ALLOWED UNLESS LEHMAN LIBRARY DATABASES PROVIDE LINKS TO THEM.**

The paper should include citations and a bibliography. Cite Levine, Conrad and Fillafer, and any other sources in proper Chicago A (Turabian notes-bibliography) or Chicago B (Turabian author-date) format. *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.

**Evaluation of Papers:** 80% of the grade will be based on content. Grades of A will be awarded to papers that persuasively defend a thesis about the degree of overlap between comparative and global history by thoroughly reviewing the major historiographical trends with attention to definitions, purposes, and value of the two fields.

The other 20% will be based upon grammar and word usage (4%), spelling, capitalization and punctuation (4%), organization (4%), readability (4%), and citations and bibliography (4%).

## Grading sheet (attach to paper)

### I. Content (80%)

Review of major historiographical trends:                    \_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_ Good \_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Poor

Evaluation of the definitions, purposes, and value:                    \_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_ Good \_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Poor

Defense of thesis about degree of overlap:                    \_\_\_ 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%)                    \_\_\_\_\_

Citations and bibliography (Chicago A or B, 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