

History 397: Seminar in Comparative History, Spring 2024
Professor Jonathan Skaff

Historiographical Paper on Comparative and World/Global History

Due: Monday, February 12

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 world/global history for more than a century. Sebastian Conrad notes that the boundaries between comparative and world/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 overlapping development of comparative and world/global history in the works of 20th and 21st century historians. Your paper should defend a thesis about the degree of overlap by evaluating the historiographical trends in the definitions, purposes, and value of comparative and global history, including their uses and misuses. Your main sources for writing the paper should be the works of Levine and Conrad 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 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