

HIS 397: Seminar in Comparative History
Professor Jonathan Skaff

**Class Participation Assignment on Tuesday, March 1:
Question(s) to Dr. Andrew Rotter about his Talk "Odor and Empire: Great Britain in
India, the United States in the Philippines"**

Due: Wed., March 2

- Hard copy submitted in class on Wednesday, March 2
- Electronic Copy submitted to the D2L Assignment Folder by Wed., March 2 at 5:00 p.m.

Length: 1-3 sentences

Topic: While Dr. Andrew Rotter is delivering his talk entitled, "Odor and Empire: Great Britain in India, the United States in the Philippines," develop a question or questions to ask him during the Q&A session at the end of the talk. The question should be one suitable to ask at a professional historical conference, such as the American Historical Association Annual Meeting. This type of question places more emphasis on the historical significance of the talk than its entertainment value or fun facts that were mentioned.

A good scholarly question should be related to the speaker's research methodology, thesis, major arguments, or major themes. The question should have the potential to stimulate the speaker to elaborate on or defend his research methodology, thesis, major arguments, or major themes of the talk. Avoid questions on minor matters that can be considered trivia.

Upload your question to D2L at the end of the talk, or for those unable to attend in person and watching the recorded version, no later than Wed., March 2 at 5:00 pm. Students who ask their questions orally at the end of the live talk will receive up to a 10-point bonus. If cameras of questioners in the virtual audience are not enabled, be sure to identify yourself by name so I know that you have asked a question.

Bring the hardcopy of your question to class on Wednesday, March 2. Each student will be asked to read her or his question and explain the type of information that s/he was trying to elicit from Dr. Rotter. Be prepared to discuss each other's questions.

Evaluation of Papers:

80% of the grade will be based on content. Content grades of A will be awarded to questions that demonstrate an understanding of the speaker's research methodology, thesis, a major argument, or a major theme, and have the potential to stimulate the speaker to defend or elaborate on his ideas.

The other 20% will be based upon the mechanics and clarity of the writing. Questions asked orally at the end of the live talk will receive up to a 10% bonus.

The grading rubric can be viewed on D2L>Assignments> Question(s) on Rotter