This graduate reading colloquium will explore recent works in modern world history that may collectively constitute a new genre of historical writing by focusing on a single year, presumably of some significance. These include Roger Crowley, 1453 (the fall of Constantinople); Charles Mann, 1491 (the Americas before Columbus); Ray Huang, 1587 (the decline of the Ming dynasty); John Willis, 1688 (early modern globalization); Frank McLynn, 1759 (the making of the British Empire); David Traxel, 1898 (the birth of the American century); Mark Kurlansky, 1968 (global rebellions); David Lesch, 1979 (the creation of the modern Middle East). This class will grapple with such questions as: Are certain years more significant than others? What do we mean by significant? How can we understand change within the context of a single year? What are the relationships between the local, the national, the imperial, and the global? Students will write several short analytical book reviews, as well as a longer exploration of a single year in modern world history of their own choosing. Please email jeffrey.auerbach@csun.edu for a permission number.