Colloquium in Modern World History

Prof. Jeffrey Auerbach
Office: Sierra Tower 603
Hours: T 1-4 pm, Th 1-3 pm
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Course: History 531
Semester: Spring 2007
Time: T 4:20-6:50 pm
Location: SH288

Description: This reading-intensive colloquium focuses on the vibrant and volatile debate over the Rise of the West: How did Europeans become so rich and why did they come to dominate so much of the world between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries? Was it the result of Europe's unique culture? Technology? Military supremacy? Politics? Religion? Science? Geography? Luck? This course is designed for students who are teachers or will one day teach world history, as well as those who are interested in trans-national, trans-regional, integrative history.

Required Texts: The following books are available for purchase at Matador. Additional articles listed on the syllabus with an asterisk (*) will be available online or on reserve at Oviatt Library.

- Jared Diamond, Guns, Germs, and Steel (Norton, 1999)
- Alfred Crosby, The Measure of Reality (Cambridge, 1997)
- Andre Gunder Frank, ReOrient (University of California Press, 1998)

Requirements:

- Participation: Active, informed, engaged, respectful participation in discussions (20%). Each student will be responsible for submitting five discussion questions in advance of one week's assigned reading. Students will email the instructor their questions the day before their designated class meeting.
- Two 3-4 page essays (15% each). Each should be a critical review and analysis of the substance of one of the assigned books, due on the day we discuss that book.
- Either a 12-15 page essay synthesizing the assigned reading, or a 12-15 page research paper on a topic relating to the Rise of the West to be chosen in consultation with the instructor, due May 24, before noon (50%).

Policies:

- You are expected to attend each class meeting and to arrive on time. More than two absences (for any reason), or repeated lateness, will result in a failing grade for the course. If you miss a class, you must submit a 2-page summary and analysis of the reading for that week before class begins.
- Late assignments will be marked down 1/3 grade per day. All assignments must be completed in order to receive credit for the course.
- Any student caught plagiarizing (using another person's words or ideas without proper acknowledgment) will receive a failing grade for the course and be referred to the Office
of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

Class Schedule

The World to 1350

Jan. 30 Introduction
Feb. 6 David Christian, *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History*, 1-332
Feb. 13 Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*

European Exceptionalism

Feb. 27 Eric Jones, *The European Miracle*
March 6 Toby Huff, *The Rise of Early Modern Science*
March 13 Alfred Crosby, *The Measure of Reality*
March 20 Joel Mokyr, *Lever of Riches*
March 27 *Geoffrey Parker, The Military Revolution*, 82-145
  *David Abernathy, The Dynamics of Global Dominance*, 1-12, 45-63, 175-224

The View from the East

April 3 No Class: Spring Break
April 10 Andre Gunder Frank, *ReOrient*
April 17 John Hobson, *The Eastern Origins of Western Civilization*

The “California School”

April 24 Ken Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence*, 1-207
May 1 Ken Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence*, 209-97