**EARLY GLOBALITIES I & II: 2012-13**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Early Globalities I: Eurasia and the Asia-Pacific**

**Early Globalities II: Africa, The Mediterranean, and the Atlantic**

*Early Globalities* is a year-long learning experiment: a two-semester graduate-faculty seminar that envisions the lived worlds of human experience in dynamic interconnection, within a flexible time frame of about a thousand years, roughly 500-1500 CE. The "worlding" this seminar attempts conjures with an uncentered planet that offers up points of viewing from many locales, many cultures. Early Globalities I in Fall 2012 considers the worlds of the trans-Eurasian continent in dynamic interaction with Europe, Mediterranean lands, and Asia, as well as the Indian subcontinent, China, Japan, Korea, and continental and archipelago Southeast Asia. Early Globalities II in Spring 2013 treats Maghrebi and Sub-Saharan (Sudanic) Africa, the multiconfessional worlds of the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, and the Americas.

Rather than survey the planet in cursory fashion, we will structure our investigation along three axes which intersect at the thematic of global interconnections: 1. **environments**: how these are made, sustained, and transformed through interaction, 2. **circulations**: of peoples, technology, material culture, ideas, and non-human agents like bacteria, and 3. **temporalities**: the complexification of time as a global phenomenon when experienced through a variety of planetary locations.

The seminar leaders envisage particular directions for each semester, but the final shape this seminar takes will partly depend on the specific interests of its participants. Faculty and graduate students with strong questions and driving research and pedagogical imperatives are therefore asked to contact the seminar leaders as early as possible for purposes of planning.

For a sense of the seminar's directions, the handful of questions below will help situate some of our investigations:

* How does the world's climate---e.g. periods of cold or drought, earthquakes, floods---open the prospect of seeing the world's peoples as only one kind of agents who act within a larger network of forces, animate and inanimate, to produce environments?

* Climate and zonal conditions in the steppe lands of Eurasia produced human diets where cultures of horse and camel determined the basis of life, and where nomadism was an efficient environmental response: how do such responses compare with nomadism and transhumance that developed, say, on the North American continent in a similar swathe of time?

*How does each particular human culture or society answer the most fundamental of questions: Who are we? Why are we here? What do we know?

* What are the characteristics of global cities like Aksum, Baghdad, Cairo, Constantinople, Cordoba, Damascus, Delhi, Hangchow, Paris, Novgorod, Tenochtitlan, Tiimbuktu, Kilwa Kisiwani, Venice, Jerusalem, Xi'an?
* What are the effects of routes: e.g. of movements of slaves from eastern and northeastern Europe and Eurasia to Dar al-Islam; of fruit and vegetables from the Americas to continental Europe and Asia; of bacteria from China to the Mediterranean and continental Europe; of art motifs and ritual objects from Mesoamerica and central Mexico to the tribal societies of the North American Southwest?

* What might it mean to attest that the "Industrial Revolution" only occurred once, and only in the West, in modern time, when data show that in 11th century Sung China, the tonnage of coal burned annually in northern China's iron and steel industries already constituted 70% of the total amount of coal used annually by metalworkers in Great Britain at the start of the 18th century?
All classes take place on Wednesday, 1:00-3:30, 317 Folwell Hall.

Readings are available electronically on Moodle. Texts are also on reserve at the library.

1. 9/5/12: A View of the Globe, c. 500-1500 c.e. Discussion of scope, problems, issues, focus. Introduction to course structure, materials, readings, etc.


4. 9/26/12: The Franciscans go to Eurasia. History of the Mongols, John of Plano Carpini, pp. 2-86; letters from Innocent IV to the Mongol Khan, and the Khan’s replies, pp.73-86; the Journey of William of Rubruck, pp. 89-220.
5. 10/3/12: Mongols and Nomads, Culture and Society: Christopher Atwood (Indiana)

Please read the articles numbered 1 first, then the primary sources, then the articles numbered 3-4.
Theme One: “World Systems and Cultural Interchange”
Theme Two: “Tolerance and Political Theology”
Theme Three: “Multilinguality, Fratricide, and Historiography”
2. Primary Source (1): Igor de Rachewiltz, trans. Secret History of the Mongols: A Mongolian Epic Chronicle of the Thirteenth Century. Leiden: Brill, 2004, §§70-78, 98-119, 244-246, 254-55, 272, 281. These passages are some of the most distinctive in the SHM, showing fratricide as one of the key themes of the first great Mongolian language history.

6. 10/10/12: Eurasia and Global Music: Gabriela Ilnitchi Currie (Minnesota).


7. 10/17/12:  **Mapping the Worlds: Europe, Asia and Cartography**: Marguerite Ragnow (Minnesota). Seminar takes place at the Bell Library, conference room.


   Valerie Hansen, The Kitan People, the Liao Dynasty (916-1125), and their World," *Orienterations* 42.1 (2011): 34-42


9. 10/31/12:  **Il Milione and the European Medieval Imaginary (‘Marco Polo’ visits Asia)**

   Marco Polo, *The Travels*.

10. 11/7/12:  **The Indian Ocean and India**: Cynthia Talbot (Texas-Austin).


11. 11/14/12:  **India**: Richard Lariviere (Field Museum, Chicago).


12. **11/21/12: South East Asia and the World:** Geoffrey Wade (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore). Seminar takes place at the Bell Library, conference room.

1. **We use the term ‘Southeast Asia’ in an almost unproblematic way today. However, what is it that constitutes Southeast Asia as a region vis-à-vis other parts of Eurasia and why? Has the scope of Southeast Asia changed over time and why?**


2. **The “Early Age of Commerce in Asia” is a term suggested for a commercial boom and related industrial and agricultural innovation which ostensibly occurred in South China, Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean and the Middle East over the period 900-1300 CE. Is this a valid historical category? If a commercial boom did indeed occur during this period, what initiated it and how was it manifested? Where lie the anomalies?**


3. **The spread of Islam to Southeast Asia was intimately tied with the development of the religion in other parts of Asia, and Muslims from elsewhere were travelling to and through Southeast Asia from very soon after the advent of Islam. What were the major Islamic influences on Southeast Asia prior to 1500? Why did Southeast Asian political leaders begin adopting the religion in the late 13th century? When did the religion begin to burgeon in the region and why?**


Geoffrey Wade. “Early Muslim Expansion in South-East Asia, eighth to fifteenth centuries.”
4. The early 15th-century voyages of Zheng He and other eunuch commanders of the Ming court across the waters of Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Indian Ocean, extending even to East Africa, constituted global voyaging a century before that of the Europeans. What led to these voyages, what were their aims, why did they end and how might we analyse them in global history?


5. Southeast Asian polities and societies have long interacted intensely with their counterparts in South Asia and China. In the period until 1500 how might we classify and periodize these relations and how did these links and influences differ?


13. 11/28/12: Student projects.


15. 12/12/12: Heading West from the East; Asia, Eurasia, and the World: re-cap and consolidate.
EARLY GLOBALITIES II: Africa, The Mediterranean, and the Atlantic
SPRING 2013

COURSE SCHEDULE

All classes take place on Wednesday, 1:00-3:30, 1229 Heller Hall, unless otherwise noted.

Readings are available electronically on Moodle at the course site: [insert URL here].

1/23/13: Transitioning from East to West: Early Globalities II: Susan Whitfield, British Museum, & Director of the International Dun Huang Project.

Introduction to course structure, materials, readings and seminar leaders. Distinguished guest, Susan Whitfield, leads the seminar. No pre-seminar readings disseminated.


Informal lunch follows at Republic; all seminar participants are invited.


Seminar takes place in the Conference Room of the Bell Library.

Orgilvie, Astrid E. J. “‘Little Ice Age’ Research” A Perspective from Iceland.”


2/27/13: Sudanic / Sub-Saharan West Africa and the World: Susan McIntosh, archeologist and anthropologist, Rice University.


Appendix A: The Umma Document.
3/20/13: SPRING BREAK.

3/27/13: Inter-religious Relations in the Medieval Islamic World
The Pact of Umar.

Selection from Ibn al-Furat.
Amitai, Reuven. “Some Remarks on the Inscription of Baybars at Naqam Nabi Musa.”
Lewis, The Battle of Ayn Jalut.
Lewis, On the Mamluks (Thirteen to Fifteenth Centuries).


Vassary, Istvan. *Cumans and Tatars: Oriental Military in the pre-Ottoman Balkans, 1185-1365.* Introduction, 1-12; Chapter 3, 57-68.

**4/17/13: The Maghreb, the Mediterranean, and Dar al-Islam:** Ramzi Rouighi, University of Southern California.


**4/24/13: Farthest West: the Worlds of Meso-America.** Angelica Afanadol-Pujol, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.


Terraciano, Kevin. “Competing Memories of the Conquest of Mexico.” 55-78.

“Competing Memories,” Terraciano notes.


Stories in Red and Black: Pictorial Histories of the Aztecs and Mixtecs

5/1/13: Native American Worlds: the City and Civilization of Cahokia: Timothy Pauketat, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Pauketat, Timothy R. and Susan M. Alt. “Medieval Life in America’s Heartland.”

5/8/13: Conclusion, evaluation, discussion. Informal lunch follows: all seminar participants are invited.