What is Global History? Is it the same as World History; if not, how is it different? When did we begin to discuss the global versus the universal, the international, or the world? What are the stakes involved in these different approaches to human history? In particular, what are the stakes for us today in thinking in terms that are global rather than regional, national, or local—and does it have to be “rather than”? What are the pitfalls or advantages in pursuing a global history? These are some of the questions this seminar will pose. They are perhaps ever the more pressing in the context of growing population movements in the form of forced migrations, which are met by demands for militarized borders, high-tech separation walls, and the proliferation of camps and other such exceptional spatial formations that map onto historically formed binaries of us and them. The historical imagination, its simultaneous capacity for highly detailed and very broad analysis, is challenged in this day when the local is again a site of chauvinism. Is the global then an antidote or the very force producing new forms of provincialism and new planetary crises that can only ever be experienced at the local? Given the political and existential urgency of this question (as the special UN sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has recently highlighted), multiple disciplinary approaches to the global will be explored. Thus, you will be exposed to some of the latest thinking on the global in history, anthropology, sociology, political science, religious studies, literary criticism, and philosophy. As a history seminar, we will also supplement our inquiry with varied past reflections on humankind’s universality or particularity.
Required Books (ordered to the bookstore & on reserve or *e-book @ library)
--D. Pilkington [Nugi Garimara], *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence* (Queensland 2013)
~Pilkington’s book is not available in our library, but I have requested it.

Useful Links
https://globalurbanhistory.com
https://aeon.co/essays/is-global-history-still-possible-or-has-it-had-its-moment

Course Requirements
In addition to active participation in every session and weekly 250-word/1pg response papers (ungraded but quality—or lack thereof—impacts participation marks), the other requirements for the course include a short midterm essay and a term paper. Individual conferences begin in late September to discuss research topics or historiographical essay options.

1. Midterm Essay (undergrad: 5pp; grad: 8pp)—Oct 17. This week, in lieu of a response paper, write a longer treatment of the readings connecting them to our discussions up this point.


5. Term Paper (undergrad: 15-20pp; grad: 20-25 pp)—Dec 6. Write a research paper that tackles any subject of interest to you but approached from a global perspective. This could be something as local as the Lachine Canal or someone as distant as a Seychellois granny. If you prefer to write a historiographical essay, we can discuss that option.

Evaluation
Participation: 25%
Midterm Essay: 20%
Outline: 15% (5% for presentation)
Term Paper: 40%

Submission and Attendance: Only dire medical or family emergencies excuse late submission or absence from class. Documentation required. ½ grade reduction for every day after the due date (e.g. a B+ paper handed in 2 days late becomes a B-). Requests for extensions must be submitted well before the due date.

Other Policies: All university and department codes apply on conduct, plagiarism, etc. NO LAPTOPS, NO CELL PHONES—these are hindrances and not aids to learning, studies say.
SCHEDULE OF READINGS

I. STAGE-SETTINGS

Sep 5 // Introduction to Global History, or, ‘Anthropologizing the Historian’


Check out the Other 1919s conference this weekend! I’ve brought in some great folks including some profs from our department to think sovereignty in global context. Earn extra credit: check-in & attend at least one full panel—1 point; attend & write short summary—2 points).

Sep 12 // Sizing Up the Problem(s)


Sep 19 // No Class: Prof at Conference. Library Time: Find a topic.
*Sign up for conferences to discuss paper topics with me next week.

Sep 26 // When We Thought (Think) Otherwise

Gayatri Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?”
II. COLONIAL GLOBAL, GLOBAL COLONIALISM

Oct 3 // Commodity the Earth


Oct 10 // Centenary of 1919, Internationalism, or Who Stole the F!%$ing Peace?


Oct 17 // Repeating Registers of Colonial Violence

D. Pilkington [Nugi Garimara], *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence* (Queensland 2013).


Film: *Rabbit-Proof Fence* (dir. P. Noyce)

III. POSTCOLONIAL GLOBALS

Oct 24 // Orientalism as Global Episteme


Oct 31 // The World Redefined, or, You Shall Not Pass!


IV: (NEO)LIBERAL GLOBALs
Nov 7// Labor Meets Coal Meets the Global

Nov 14// Knowledge (Never) for Its Own Sake
Tim Mitchell, “Can the Mosquito Speak”
Tim Mitchell, “Carbon Democracy”

**Outline Presentations**

Nov 21// World Orders w/o People

V. CURTAIN CALL
Nov 28// Crisis to End all Crises
C. Darwin, On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life (London 1859), Intro and Conclusion, 1-6 and 459-90.


Podcast (Listen at home)