

**Global Migrations**  
HIST 535-002/ 615-006/635-004  
Fall Semester, 2015  
**Sam Lebovic**

**Class Details**

**Time:** Thu 7:20-10:00 pm

**Location:** Enterprise Hall 275

**Office Hours:** Thursday, 3-5, or by appt

**Contact Details**

**Email:** slebovic@gmu.edu

**Office:** Robinson Hall B 375c

How have the global migrations of people shaped the modern world? What forces produce international migrations? How have empires and nation-states both promoted and restricted the international movement of people? In recent years, these questions have moved to the center of the new global history, as scholars seek to grasp the role of large-scale migrations in modern history and to understand the origins of the contentious contemporary politics of immigration. In this seminar, we will read widely in the history of global migrations in order to better understand how state sovereignty, international capitalism, and war have intersected with the individual experiences of migrants. We will pay particular attention to the role of politics and law in shaping migration patterns and experiences. Readings will range across the globe, from the early modern period until the present, and will cover such subjects as the slave trade, indentured labor, racial restriction laws, the construction of state borders, and refugee policy. The course will provide both an overview of global migration history, and offer an introduction to the interdisciplinary methods historians use to study international migration.

**Course Requirements**

**1) Class Participation (20% of final grade)**

Participation in class discussion is crucial to the success of this class, as well as your success in it. Faithful attendance and class preparation is expected – please read the required readings closely and carefully, and come to class prepared to discuss them. The better you read the class materials, the better the conversation, and the better the conversation, the better the class. Respectful, thoughtful discussion is good participation – neither your peers nor I will tolerate *ad hominem* attacks or soap-boxing. Questions are great, as are connections between current discussions and earlier topics, as are efforts to clarify points of confusion.

I will issue a mid-term grade in week 7 so you know how you stand. This grade will not count to your final grade – its just a measure of how your participation has been in the class so far.

We will read approximately one monograph a week, normally alongside an additional article. All books are available for purchase in the campus bookstore in the Johnson Center. Feel free to buy/read the cheapest versions you can find – e-books are fine – but please make sure to get the correct edition. All the articles are available as PDFs on the course blackboard page.

**2) 10 emailed sets of questions for discussion (Pass/fail)**

Before each week's seminar, I would like you to email me 3 questions that you would like to discuss collectively. They are due by 1pm on the day of class.

These questions can be points of confusion about the reading, juxtapositions you notice between the readings, thoughts that the readings inspired for future research or analysis, challenges to the arguments of the readings, etc. The purpose of this exercise is threefold – first, it encourages you to think critically about the reading before class, helping you to process what you've read; second, it helps me to get a feel for the most productive places to begin and focus our discussion; third, it allows me to get a sense of your interests and engagement with the texts outside of your contributions in class.

Keep the questions short, and don't overly stress about how you write them. I'm grading these pass/fail – so as long as I receive them, you pass. If I think you could adjust the way you are approaching this task, I will contact you individually.

We have readings for 13 weeks, so you have 3 free passes. If you would like to use a pass on any given week, please email me a short note to that effect before 1 pm on the day of class.

**3) Introduction of 1 book to the class (pass/fail)**

Each of you will be responsible for initiating discussion of one of the classes by posing the first question to the class. Questions should open up a broad topic through which we can explore the themes, methods and implications of the book – they should not be merely factual.

**4) 5 page book review (20% of final grade) DUE on the day we read the book in class.**

Each of you will write a 5 page analytic review of the book you introduce to the class. Book reviews should not simply summarize the text, but make an over-arching argument about the book's argument – what works, what doesn't, what is interesting, what could be further developed, what is missing etc. Successful reviews will develop an original and interesting line of argument that is sustained throughout the paper. Reviews should be emailed to me as a word doc by 1pm on the day of class (ie, this review counts as your questions for the week).

**5) 4-5 page article comparison (15% of final grade) DUE on the day we read the article in class**

Each of you will write a 4-5 page paper analyzing one of the articles we read in this class alongside 2 other articles of your own choice. Papers should not summarize the articles, but analyze them comparatively.

A large part of this assignment is choosing two good articles for comparison – I will be happy to discuss selections with you in office hours or via email. But if you would like to discuss with me, we need to begin our conversation no later than my office hours two weeks before the paper is due.

**6) Article presentation (5% of final grade)**

In no more than 4-5 minutes, each of you will present to the class an overview of the argument, content and method of the two articles you read independently for your article comparison. Presentations should not be a summary, but an explanation of how the articles add to our collective understanding of the topic.

To receive a high grade for this presentation you cannot read from a prepared text. Be prepared to speak off-the-cuff or from notes – we'll all be in this together, so think of it as an opportunity to practice presenting in this way.

**7) 15 page final historiographical paper (40% of final grade). DUE Dec 17, by 5pm.**

*Option 1:* I will provide an essay prompt, asking you to synthesize the readings for the course, and construct an analytic argument based on close readings of the books we read over the semester.

*Option 2:* Your choice of topic

Based on 4-5 scholarly monographs of your choice, of which at least 3 must come from outside of the class reading, please write an analytic historiographical essay. The aim here is to closely analyze a small sub-field of literature of interest to you. Good essays will develop an overarching argument that makes sense of what works and doesn't work in the books in question, explain why, and sketch future directions for analysis and research. It is fine to re-use the book you reviewed as one of your books for this assignment, provided this makes sense with your other selections.

**8) If you are choosing Option 2 for the final, I will need a list of books for the final paper DUE Nov 6 by 5 pm.**

Please email me a short outline of the research problem you want to explore, a list of the books you have chosen to review, and a short explanation (2-3 sentences) as to why you have selected each book (earlier than this due date is completely fine, and encouraged). I will write back to ok the selection. I'm happy to discuss potential books over email or in person throughout the semester. The most important thing is that you choose a set of books that hang together in some way and that are interesting and exciting to you.

If I have not approved a final list of books by November 26, you will complete option 1 for the final.

### **Requirements for all papers**

All papers are due in Word format, 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced with page numbers, and 1 inch margins.

Please email all of your papers to [slebovic@gmu.edu](mailto:slebovic@gmu.edu).

I will only grant extensions in advance, and on a case-by-case basis – all other late papers will be docked a half letter grade for each day they are tardy.

### **On Academic Integrity**

GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity (<http://oai.gmu.edu/>) for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. If you have any questions, concerns or confusion about this policy during the semester, please bring them directly to me – I'll be happy to help, and it is better to be safe than sorry.

### **Communications**

Students in this class need to check their GMU email accounts regularly throughout the semester – I will rely on the mailtool in blackboard to communicate all announcements, such changes to the syllabus or to class meetings.

I will endeavor to respond to all emails within one working-day of receiving them. I am regularly away from my mail in the evenings and on the weekends, so while I *will* respond to your mail, I may not do so instantaneously. (I generally deal with my email between 3 and 5 in the afternoon.) I will check and respond to email more regularly in the immediate lead-up to assignments in order to handle more urgent questions.

My office hours are between 3 and 5 every Thursday afternoon – please feel free to stop by if you want to discuss anything related to the course or your studies. If your schedule is tight, you are welcome to email me so that we can arrange an appointment at a particular time. Throughout the semester, I am also more than happy to meet by appointment if you cannot make my office hours – just send me an email or speak to me after class.

### **Special Accommodations**

If any of these course policies pose a particular hardship for you, please come and speak to me directly.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

### Course Schedule

**Week 1      Sep 3      Introduction**

**Week 2      Sep 10      Empires of Migration**

Dirk Hoerder, *Cultures in Contact: World Migrations in the Second Millenium* (Duke University Press, 2002), 1-21

Alison Games, *Migration and the Origins of the English Atlantic World* (Harvard University Press, 2001) ISBN: 978-0674007024

**Article:** David J. Robinson, "Introduction: Towards a Typology of Migration in Colonial Spanish America," in *Migration in Colonial Spanish America* ed. David J. Robinson (Cambridge University Press, 1990)

**Week 3      Sep 17      Slavery**

Marcus Rediker, *The Slave Ship: A Human History* (Penguin Books, 2008) ISBN: 978-0143114253

**Article:** Alex Borucki, David Eltis, and David Wheat, "Atlantic History and the Slave Trade to Spanish America," *American Historical Review* 120 (April 2015): 433-461

**Week 4      Sep 24      Forced Migration**

Emma Christopher, Cassandra Pybus, and Marcus Rediker, *Many Middle Passages: Forced Migration and the Making of the Modern World* (University of California Press, 2007). ISBN: 978-0520252073

[NB – you can use any of the articles in here as the selection for your article comparison]

**Week 5      Oct 1      Indentured Labor "after Emancipation"**

Walton Look Lai, *Indentured Labor, Caribbean Sugar: Chinese and Indian Migrants to the British West Indies, 1838-1918* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004) ISBN: 978-0801877469

**Article:** Moon-Ho Jung, "Outlawing "Coolies": Race, Nation, and Empire in the Age of Emancipation," *American Quarterly* 57 (September 2005): 677-701.

**Week 6      Oct 8      Spaces of Migration**

Sunil Amrith, *Crossing the Bay of Bengal: The Furies of Nature and the Fortunes of Migrants* (Harvard University Press, 2013), ISBN: 978-0674724839

**Article:** Wang Gungwu, "The Sojourners' Way," in *The Chinese Overseas: From Earthbound China to the Quest for Autonomy* (Harvard University Press, 2000)

**Week 7      Oct 15      The Rise of Immigration Restriction**

Adam M. McKeown *Melancholy Order: Asian Migration and the Globalization of Borders* (Columbia University Press, 2011) ISBN: 978-0231140775

**Article:** Alison Bashford, "Immigration Restriction: Rethinking Period and Place from Settler Colonies to Postcolonial Nations," *Journal of Global History* 9(1) (March 2014): 26-48

**Week 8      Oct 22      The Age of Migration?**

Dirk Hoerder, *Migrations and Belongings: 1870-1945* (Belknap Press, 2014) ISBN: 978-0674281318

**Article:** Nancy L. Green, 'The Politics of Exit: Reversing the Immigration Paradigm', *Journal of Modern History* 77 (2) (June, 2005): 263-289.

**Week 9      Oct 29      American Immigration Policy**

Aristide Zolberg, *A Nation by Design: Immigration Policy in the Fashioning of America* (Harvard University Press, 2009) ISBN: 978-0674030749

**Week 10      Nov 5      Migrant Rights and State Sovereignty**

Mary Dewhurst Lewis, *The Boundaries of the Republic: Migrant Rights and the Limits of Universalism in France, 1918-1940* (Stanford University Press, 2007) ISBN: 978-0804757225

**Article:** Tara Zahra, "Travel Agents on Trial: Policing Mobility in East Central Europe, 1889-1989," *Past and Present* 223 (May 2014): 161-193

**Fri, Nov 6** For Final Paper Option 2, you need to submit a bibliography by 5pm.

**Week 11      Nov 12      Passports**

Craig Robertson, *The Passport in America: The History of a Document* (Oxford University Press, 2012): ISBN: 978-0199927579

**Article:** John Torpey, "The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Passport System," in *Documenting Individual Identity: The Development of State Practices in the Modern World* ed. Jane Caplan and John Torpey (Princeton University press, 2001): 256-270

**Week 12      Nov 19      Borders**

Rachel St. John, *A Line in the Sand: A History of the Western U.S.-Mexico Border* (Princeton University Press, 2012) ISBN: 978-0691156132

**Article:** Edith Sheffer, "On Edge: Building the Border in East and West Germany," *Central European History*, 40(2) (June 2007), 307-339

**Week 13      Nov 26      NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING**

**Week 14      Dec 3      Displaced Persons**

Gerard Daniel Cohen, *In War's Wake: Europe's Displaced Persons in the Postwar Order* (Oxford University Press, 2011) ISBN: 978-0195399684

**Article:** Umut Oszu, "Fabricating Fidelity: Nation-Building, International Law, and the Greek-Turkish Population Exchange" *Leiden Journal of International Law*, 24 (2011): 823-47

**Week 15      Dec 10      Late Twentieth Century Migration**

Dirk Hoerder, *Cultures in Contact: World Migrations in the Second Millenium* (Duke University Press, 2002), 508-582.

Henk Overbeek (2002), 'Neoliberalism and the Regulation of Global Labor Mobility', *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 581 (2002): 74-90.

Cindy Hahamovitch, "Creating Perfect Immigrants: Guest Workers of the World in Historical Perspective," *Labor History* 44 (2003): 70-94.

**Week 16      Dec 17**

**Final Papers** due by 5pm.