Major Field Exam in World History

Faculty expect students preparing for the world history exam to be conversant in the themes and questions raised by the books listed on the “core reading list” below.

Students taking the world history exam will also have an opportunity to explore additional themes of personal interest and of major importance to global political, social, and cultural development. Based on the themes they choose, and in consultation with the examining professor, students taking the world history exam will select among the recommended readings proposed by the World History Association, listed below.

Core Reading List

Dunn, The New World History

Patrick Manning, Navigating World History

Abu-Lughod, Before Europe Hegemony

Pomeranz, The Great Divergence

Pomeranz & Topik, The World that Trade Created

Pacey, Technology in World Civilization

Curtin, The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex

Mintz, Sweetness and Power

Donald Wright, The World and a Very Small Place in Africa

Chaudhuri, Trade and Civilization in the Indian Ocean

Crosby, Ecological Imperialism

McNeill, Something New Under the Sun

Lindqvist, A History of Bombing

Gilroy, The Black Atlantic

Huntington, The Clash of Civilizations

Lafeber, Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism
World History Association Recommended Readings (by category)

Conceptions and General Methodological Issues

Arnold Toynbee, *A Study of History*
Bruce Mazlish and Ralph Buultjens, eds., *Conceptualizing Global History*
David Christian, *Maps of Time*
H.G. Wells, *The Outline of History*
Jean and Donald James Johnson, *Human Drama: World History: From 500 to 1450 C.E.*
Jerry H. Bentley, *Shapes of World History in Twentieth-Century Scholarship*
Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*
Marshall G.S. Hodgson, *Rethinking World History*
Oswald Spengler, *The Decline of the West*
Philip Pomper et al., eds., *World History*
Ross E. Dunn, ed., *The New World History*
William H. McNeill, *The Rise of the West*

Beyond States and Societies: Alternative Conceptions of Social Space

Anthony Reid, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce*
Barry Cunliffe, *Facing the Ocean*
Brett L. Walker, *The Conquest of Ainu Lands*
Bruce L. Batten, *To the Ends of Japan*
Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World*
Frederick Jackson Turner, *The Frontier in American History*
Jerry H. Bentley et al., eds., *Interactions*
John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World*
K.N. Chaudhuri, *Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean*
K.N. Chaudhuri, *Asia Before Europe*
Martin W. Lewis and Kären E. Wigen, *The Myth of Continents*
Owen Lattimore, *Inner Asian Frontiers of China*
Richard Eaton, *The Rise of Islam and the Bengal Frontier*
Richard Frye, *The Heritage of Central Asia*
Richard White, *The Middle Ground*
Thomas Bender, ed., *Rethinking American History in a Global Age*
Thomas J. Barfield, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce*
Walter Prescott Webb, *The Great Frontier*

Modernization Analysis

Alfred W. Crosby, *The Measure of Reality*
Carlo Cipolla, *Guns, Sails, and Empires*
Cyril E. Black, *The Dynamics of Modernization*
Dependency and World-System Analysis

Andre Gunder Frank, *World Accumulation*
Andre Gunder Frank, *Dependent Accumulation and Underdevelopment*
Andre Gunder Frank and B. Gills, *The World System: Five Hundred Years or Five Thousand?*
Christopher Chase-Dunn and Thomas D. Hall, *Rise and Demise*
Daniel Chirot, *Social Change in the Twentieth Century*
Eric Wolf, *Europe and the People without History*
Fernand Braudel, *The Perspective of the World*
Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Modern World-System, 3 vols. to date*
Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Essential Wallerstein*
Immanuel Wallerstein, *Historical Capitalism*
Janet L. Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*
L.S. Stavrianos, *Global Rift*
Robert A. Denemark, et al., eds., *World System History*
Thomas D. Hall, ed., *A World-Systems Reader*
Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*

Beyond Modernization and World Systems

A.G. Hopkins, ed., *Globalization in History*
Andre Gunder Frank, *ReORIENT*
Arnold Pacey, *Technology in World Civilization*
C.A. Bayly, *The Birth of the Modern World*
Jack Goldstone, *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World*
Jack Goody, *The East in the West*
James M. Blaut, *The Colonizer's Model of the World*
James M. Blaut, *Eight Eurocentric Historians*
Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence*
R. Bin Wong, *China Transformed*
Cross-cultural Trade in Pre-modern Times

Angela Schottenhammer, ed., Emporium of the World: Maritime Quanzhou
Barry Cunliffe, Greeks, Romans and Barbarians
George F. Hourani, Arab Seafaring in the Indian Ocean, rev. ed
Ibrahimov N. Ibrahimovich, The Travels of Ibn Battuta to Central Asia
J. Innes Miller, The Spice Trade of the Roman Empire
Janet L. Abu-Lughod, Before European Hegemony
K.N. Chaudhuri, Beyond Binary Histories
K.N. Chaudhuri, Asia before Europe
K.N. Chaudhuri, Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean
Kenneth Hall, Maritime Trade and State Development in Early Southeast Asia
Liu Xinru, Ancient India and Ancient China
Liu Xinru, Silk and Religion
Maurice Lombard, Golden Age of Islam
Michael Rowlands et al., eds., Centre and Periphery in the Ancient World
Philip D. Curtin, Cross-Cultural Trade in World History
Richard Frye, Ibn Fadlan's Journey to Russia
Richard Hodges, Mohammed, Charlemagne and the Origins of Europe
S. Ratnagar, Encounters: The Westerly Trade of the Harappa Civilization
S.D. Goitein, A Mediterranean Society
Said Hamdun and Noel King (Ross Dunn, foreword), Ibn Battuta in Black Africa
Tansen Sen, Buddhism, Diplomacy, and Trade
Vimala Begley and Richard Daniel de Puma, eds., Rome and India
Ying-shih Yü, Trade and Expansion in Han China

Trade and Empire in the Early Modern World

Anthony Reid, Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce
Holden Furber, Rival Empires of Trade in the Orient
James D. Tracy, ed., The Rise of Merchant Empires
James D. Tracy, ed., The Political Economy of Merchant Empires
Jonathan Israel, Dutch Primacy in World Trade
K.N. Chaudhuri, Trading World of Asia and the English East India Company
Leonard Blussé, Bitter Bonds
Leonard Blussé and F.S. Gaastra, eds., Companies and Trade
Leonard Blussé and F.S. Gaastra, eds., On the Eighteenth Century as a Category of Asian History
M.A.P. Meilink-Roelofsz, Asian Trade and European Influence
Michael Pearson, The Portuguese in India
Om Prakash, The Dutch East India Company and the Economy of Bengal
Philip D. Curtin, The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex
Philip D. Curtin, Cross-Cultural Trade in World History
R. Ptak and D. Rothermund, eds., Emporia, Commodities, and Entrepreneurs
Sanjay Subrahmanyam, The Portuguese Empire in Asia
Stephen F. Dale, Indian Merchants and Eurasian Trade

Modern Imperialism

Ann Laura Stoler, Race and the Education of Desire
Anthony Pagden, Lords of All the World
Bernard S. Cohn, Colonialism and Its Forms of Knowledge
Daniel R. Headrick, The Tentacles of Progress
Daniel R. Headrick, The Tools of Empire
Dominic Lieven, Empire: The Russian Empire and Its Rivals
Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler, eds., Tensions of Empire
Jürgen Osterhammel, Colonialism: A Theoretical Overview
Laura Hostetler, Qing Colonial Enterprise
Louise Young, Japan's Total Empire
Margaret Strobel, European Women and the Second British Empire
Michael Adas, Prophets of Rebellion
Michael Adas, Machines as the Measure of Men
Mike Davis, Late Victorian Holocausts
N. Chaudhuri and M. Strobel, eds., Western Women and Imperialism
Peter C. Perdue, China Marches West
Philip D. Curtin, The World and the West
Sidney Mintz, Sweetness and Power

Postcolonial Perspectives

Aijaz Ahmad, In Theory
Arif Dirlik, The Postcolonial Aura
Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities, 2nd ed.
Dipesh Chakrabarty, Provincializing Europe
Edward W. Said, Orientalism
Edward W. Said, Culture and Imperialism
Gyan Prakash, ed., After Colonialism
James Clifford, The Predicament of Culture
James Clifford and G. Marcus, eds., Writing Culture
Mary Louise Pratt, Imperial Eyes
Nicholas Thomas, Colonialism's Culture
Paul Gilroy, The Black Atlantic
Ranajit Guha and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, eds., Selected Subaltern Studies
Stevan Harrell, ed., Cultural Encounters on China's Ethnic Frontiers
Vicente L. Rafael, Contracting Colonialism
Migrations and Diasporas

Adam McKeown, *Chinese Migrant Networks and Cultural Change*
David Eltis, *The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas*
David Northrup, *Indentured Labor in the Age of Imperialism*
Dirk Hoerder, *Cultures in Contact*
Eve Troutt Powell and John O. Hunwick, *African Experience in the Mediterranean Lands of Islam*
Hugh Tinker, *A New System of Slavery*
Irving Rouse, *Migrations in Prehistory*
J.P. Mallory, *In Search of the Indo-Europeans*
J.P. Mallory and Victor Mair, *The Tarim Mummies*
John K. Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World*
Joseph E. Harris, ed.x, *The Black Atlantic*
Mechal Sobel, *The World They Made Together*
Michael T. Conniff and T.J. Davis, *Africans in the Americas*
P.C. Emmer, ed., *Colonialism and Migration*
Patrick Manning, *Migration in World History*
Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*
Richard Price, *First-Time*
Richard Price, *Alabi's World*
Robin Cohen, *Global Diasporas*

Cross-cultural Encounters

Al-jabarti, *Napoleon in Egypt*
Anne Salmond, *Two Worlds*
Anne Salmond, *Between Worlds*
Arnold Pacey, *Technology in World Civilization*
Edward H. Schafer, *The Golden Peaches of Samarkand*
Edward H. Schafer, *The Vermilion Bird*
François Hartog, *The Mirror of Herodotus*
Greg Dening, *Islands and Beaches*
Greg Dening, *Beach Crossings*
James Axtell, *The European and the Indian*
James Axtell, *The Invasion Within*
Jean and John Comaroff, *Of Revelation and Revolution*
Jerry H. Bentley, *Old World Encounters*
Martin Bernal, *Black Athena*
Mary W. Helms, *Ulysses' Sail*
Richard W. Bulliet, *The Camel and the Wheel*
Stuart B. Schwartz, ed., *Implicit Understandings*
Walter Burkert, *The Orientalizing Revolution*
Biological Exchanges and Environmental Change

Alfred W. Crosby, Ecological Imperialism
Alfred W. Crosby, The Columbian Exchange
Andrew Watson, Agricultural Innovation in the Early Islamic World
Charles L. Redman, Human Impact on Ancient Environments
Clive Ponting, A Green History of the World
David Christian, Maps of Time
David Henige, Numbers from Nowhere
Donald Worster, Rivers of Empire
Donald Worster, ed., The Ends of the Earth
Jared Diamond, Guns, Germs, and Steel
John F. Richards, The Unending Frontier
John R. McNeill, Something New Under the Sun
Noble David Cook, Born to Die
Sheldon Watts, Epidemics and History
Timothy H. Silver, A New Face on the Countryside
William Cronon, Changes in the Land
William H. McNeill, Plagues and Peoples