

Race & Conflict In History

HIS 601

RESEARCH SEMINAR

Professor Robert Chase

TU 5:30-8:20 PM SBS N-318

Two quotes nicely elucidate the theme of this graduate seminar. The first Race and Conflict in by Maya Angelou: “Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future, and renders the present inaccessible.” The second by Malcolm X: “You can’t separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom.”

Drawing on these ideas of race and conflict that dominate our past and, sadly, the present moment, this seminar explores the history of race and conflict as a historical force across the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. As such, students will read a collection of primary sources, articles, and monographs on the ways in which racial conflict shaped much of the globe during three pivotal centuries that comprise the historical development of the modern world. Topics that we will analyze include slavery and the slave trade; colonialism and anti-colonialism; uprisings and rebellions; war as racial and ethnic conflict; the revolutionary era and revolutions as violence; nationalism as ideological scripts for racial violence; carceral discipline as racial conflict; gender, race, and conflict; and resistance to systems of racial power and oppression.

In addition to the core readings, the seminar will train graduate students in the research and writing of graduate level research papers, with a focus on race and racial conflict. As a research seminar, we will address how historians frame a question, shape a research project, and present an argument and set of conclusions. Requirements consist of completing all reading assignments and participating actively in class, as well as researching and writing a research paper. In addition, each student will contribute at least one document for general analysis over the course of the term. The second half of the course will be devoted to researching, writing, and presenting working drafts of students’ research papers. The final research paper of ca. 20-30 pages will be due on Dec. 15. **Prerequisite: Enrollment in History PhD program (other students require permission of Instructor)**