Global History Exam
April 2014

Answer one question from each pair.

Pair 1:

1. “The global” is both a gargantuan category and a shorthand for everything from neoliberalism to transnationalism, from capitalism to imperialism. Make an argument for the best working definitions of global economic history, with particular attention to empire, agency, structure and the place of Africa within the world economy.

2. How well has recent scholarship mediated between the local and the global in its consideration of capitalism? How have various scalar approaches to capitalism affected assessments of the roots of economic inequalities?

Pair 2:

1. In many ways the history of Islam reterritorializes the global, offering an alternative to Eurocentric approaches. Discuss this proposition and be sure to consider what impact an Islam-centered history has on the visibility of Africa and the Indian Ocean in world history.

2. Your first teaching position is at a large public institution, with 16 week semesters, where there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the development of a course called “Africa and the World” at the 100 level. How would you approach this task? What themes and authors would you emphasize? What kinds of assignments would you give to the students to help them grasp the stakes of locating African history in a global context? Please note that a detailed syllabus (weekly readings, page numbers, etc.) is not required. Write a rationale for the course and enumerate 3 major sections, elaborating on your themes with 3 books and 3 articles for each.

Pair 3:

1. How has the study of food cultures affected our understandings of social relations, economics, and politics across time and space? In answering this question, you should define the meaning of “food cultures” and comment on the ways that this topic fits into larger discussions of consumption in global history.

2. How can attention to diasporic communities help us periodize and spatialize the Atlantic World since 1492?