Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  __X___ NEW   _____ MODIFY  _____ DELETE

Local Unit: History  Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation: HIST  Course Number: HIST 535

Full Course Title: Problems in Comparative World History

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): PROBS IN COMP WRLD HIST

Credit hours: 3:3:0  Program of Record: History Graduate Program

Repeatable for Credit?  
D=Yes, not within same term  Up to hours  
X__ T=Yes, within the same term  Up to hours  
___ N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  __X__ Lecture (LEC) ___ Lab (LAB) ___ Recitation (RCT)  
___ Studio (STU) ___ Internship (INT) ___ Independent Study (IND) ___ Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format  3 : 3 : 0  Course Level: GF(500-600) __X__ GA(700+)

Maximum Enrollment: 20  For NEW courses, first term to be offered: S05

Prerequisites or corequisites: None

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses.:
Investigation of selected problems in global and comparative history, covering multiple countries or world regions. Course may be repeated when content differs.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:
Last term offered:  Previous Course Abbreviation:  Previous number:  Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:
Submitted by:  ________________________________ email: ________________  
Department/Program:  ________________________________ Date: __________________

College Committee:  ________________________________ Date: _________________

Graduate Council Representative:  ________________________________ Date: __________________
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Course Coordination Form

Approval from other units:

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

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Graduate Council approval: ___________________________ Date: __________
Graduate Council representative: ______________________ Date: __________
Provost Office representative: _________________________ Date: __________
This course examines systems of slavery from the ancient world to the present, with an emphasis on the Atlantic slave trade from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. We will examine the impact of enslaved people and slavery on cultural, economic, and political systems in Africa, the Americas, and Europe. How should we define different kinds of forced labor? What criteria should we use when comparing slave systems across time and geographic space? How did slavery shape the societies and people it supported? How did enslaved people resist the dehumanizing aspects of slavery? What is the role of race in establishing and maintaining slave systems? The class is based on discussions, and students should come to class ready to talk about the week’s assigned readings.

Assignments:
1. Attendance and participation in class discussions are required.
2. Each student will write five 300-400 word reaction papers on the readings for particular weeks. Write on an aspect of the book that interests you – for example, you may wish to explain whether you agreed with the author’s argument or not and why; you may discuss how the author used the sources; you may compare the book to other books that we have read in the class. The point of the assignment is twofold: first, to share ideas and broaden your understanding of the books (different people will focus on different aspects of a book) and second, to stimulate class discussions (you may choose to pose questions for discussion). Please post the reaction papers to the class blog by Sunday at noon so that the other students can read them before class on Monday. You must attend class on the day you write a reaction paper, so please do not post a reaction paper for a day that you are unable to attend class.
3. Each student will write book reviews of two of the assigned books. The reviews are due in class on the day for which they are assigned, and you must be in class on that day. Do not write a book review for a class that you are unable to attend. Do not write a review on the same week that you write a reaction paper.
4. An historiographical essay due on December 8. You will pick two countries with a history of slavery and analyze books on a particular topic (possible topics include religion, labor practices, rebellion, emancipation, etc.)
   -- Topic statements and tentative bibliographies are due on September 27.
   -- The projects will be presented to the class. You will present your project as a work-in-progress, so that people who present earlier will have less polished projects than the people who present later.

Grading:
Participation and reaction papers = 20% of the final grade
Two book reviews = 20% each
Historiographical essay = 40%

Honor Code:
George Mason has an honor code and you are expected to adhere to it. See http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/honor.html to learn more about it. If I suspect plagiarism or other forms of cheating I will submit my findings to the Honor Committee. You are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism and other kinds of cheating. If you do not understand what constitutes plagiarism and cheating please ask me for clarification.

Classroom policies:
Please turn off cell phones and please do not bring food to class. You may bring drinks to class.
Books available at Powells.com, Amazon.com, and the GMU bookstore. They are also on reserve in the Johnson Center Library unless otherwise noted:

Orlando Patterson, *Slavery and Social Death*

John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800*

Joseph Miller, *Way of Death*

Philip D. Morgan, *Slave Counterpoint*

Stuart B. Schwartz, *Sugar Plantations in the Formation of Brazilian Society* *this is not in the GMU libraries, but it is available through WRLC and Interlibrary loan*

James F. Brooks, *Captives and Cousins*

James H. Sweet, *Recreating Africa*

Gomez, Michael A., *Exchanging our Country Marks* *this is also an electronic resource available through GMU libraries on the web*

David Barry Gaspar and Darlene Clark Hine, eds. *More than Chattel*

Emilia Viotti da Costa, *Crowns of Glory, Tears of Blood*

Rebecca Scott, *Slave Emancipation in Cuba*

Laurent DuBois, *A Colony of Citizens*

Kevin Bales, *Disposable People*

**Week 1** (August 30): Introduction to the class.

**NO CLASS SEPTEMBER 6 – LABOR DAY**

**Week 2** (September 13): Orlando Patterson, *Slavery and Social Death: A Comparative Study*

**Week 3** (September 20): John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800*

**Week 4** (September 27): Joseph Miller, *Way of Death: Merchant Capitalism and the Angolan Slave Trade 1730-1830*

Topic statements and bibliographies due September 27.

Sign up for presentations.

**Week 5** (October 4): Philip D. Morgan, *Slave Counterpoint: Black Culture in the Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake and Lowcountry*

**NO CLASS OCTOBER 11 – Make-up day on October 13**

**Week 6** (October 13): Stuart B. Schwartz, *Sugar Plantations in the Formation of Brazilian Society*

**Week 7** (October 18): James F. Brooks, *Captives and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands*


**Week 9** (November 1): Michael A. Gomez, *Exchanging our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South*

presentations

**Week 10** (November 8): David Barry Gaspar and Darlene Clark Hine, eds., *More than Chattel: Black Women and Slavery in the Americas*

presentations
Week 11 (November 15): Emilia Viotti da Costa, *Crowns of Glory, Tears of Blood: The Demerara Slave Rebellion of 1823*
presentations

Week 12 (November 22): Rebecca J. Scott, *Slave Emancipation in Cuba: The Transition to Free Labor, 1860-1899*
presentations

Week 13 (November 29): Laurent Dubois, *A Colony of Citizens: Revolution and Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean*
presentations

Week 14 (December 6): Kevin Bales, *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*
presentations

December 8: HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ESSAYS DUE IN MY MAILBOX (DEPT. OF HISTORY AND ART HISTORY) BY 12 PM.