

## **Syllabus HILA 144 Spring Quarter 2018**

### **Topic: Rubber and Industrialization**

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Office Hours: W 12-14h or by appointment (chunefeldt@ucsd.edu)

Originally used by indigenous peoples in Amazonia, with the advent of European explorers and scientists, seeds of the rubber tree reached royal botanical gardens in Europe and, later, in massive amounts Southeast Asia's plantations, controlled by non-Hispanic imperial powers. It was the expansion of the bicycle, car, and airplane industries that led to the ever growing demand for rubber in the centers of power, but not only. Can you imagine today's production, distribution, and consumption worlds without rubber or it's – not quite as perfect – synthetic equivalent? Rubber lay at the heart of what has been called the "unequal worldwide distribution of labor," and its concomitant power struggles on a worldwide scale.

Course:

Week 1

- Economic History, Historiography, and Natural Resources

Gail D. Triner, "Recent Latin American Economic History and Its Historiography," in LARR, vol. 38, no. 1, 2003, 219-237

Aviva Chomsky, "Social Impacts of Resource Extraction," in LARR, vol.51, no. 1, 2016

Week 2

- Discoveries in the Era of Enlightenment

- Anthony Smith, *Explorers of the Amazon* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press), 1994, pp. 189-250 (Monsieur and Madame Godin, Baron von Humboldt)

Week 3

- Crop Diversity in the New World

Daniel W. Gade, *Nature and Culture in the Andes* (Madison and London: The University of Wisconsin Press), 1999, pp. 184-221 (Carl Sauer and the Andean Nexus in *New World Crop Diversity, Conclusions*)

Week 4

- Markets and Commodity Chains

- Steven C. Topik and Allan Wells, in *Global Markets Transformed, 1870-1945* (Cambridge, London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press), 2012, pp. 113-257

Week 5

- A Brief History of Rubber, Brazil

Zephyr Frank and Aldo Musachio, "Brazil in the International Rubber Trade, 1870-1930," in Steven Topik et. al. (eds.), *From Silver to Cocaine. Latin American Commodity Chains and the Building of the World Economy, 1500-2000* (Durham and London: Duke University Press), 2006, pp. 271-299

Week 6

- Rubber Barons

Anthony Smith (s.a.a.) pp. 285-324 (Julio Arana, King of the Putumayo), Film: *Fitzcarraldo* by Werner Herzog

#### Week 7

- Fordlandia

Greg Grandin, *Fordlandia. The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* (New York: Henry Holt and Company), 2009 (read as much as your time allows, reads like a novel, and tells much about industrial push in the U.S.)

#### Week 8

- Borders and Progress

Seth Garfield, *In Search of the Amazon. Brazil, the United States, and the Nature of a Region* (Durham and London: Duke University Press), 2013, pp. 1-49

#### Week 9

- Rubber Dependency

In *Ibid*, pp. 49-85

#### Week 10

- Love, War, and Labor: From Wartime Soldiers to Green Guerrillas

In *Ibid*. pp. 86-169, and pp. 213-228

#### Evaluation:

- As we read our way through many aspects of rubber production, distribution, consumption, I want you to select one of these aspects (from politics, wars, borders, migration, indigeneity, labor, environment, industry to expressions of art, in film, music, paintings, etc.) to turn it into a final research paper (ca. 10 pp.). 65%
- Instead of a mid-term, you will finish a research proposal with an annotated bibliography by the end of week 5. 35%
- Highly recommended: begin with your research early in the Quarter

The few books and articles indicated in the Readings each week are easy to access and can also be bought used in "very good conditions." Ideally you should come to class having read and taken notes of the weekly readings. Weeks 4 and 10 consider the largest portions of your weekly readings. Make sure you plan your time well.