

**Global Commodity Histories
Seminar on Nation State and Society**

HIS 554

THEME SEMINAR

Professor Paul Gootenberg

Wednesdays 4:00-6:50pm

SBS N-303

This Theme Seminar open to PhD and MA students uses the “new commodity history” as a means of exploring larger themes in the history of globalization, as well as capitalism, power, labor, national identities, consumption cultures, and environmental history. Commodity studies stands at the intersection of material culture and economic history and social history and cultural studies. The seminar will address some of the interdisciplinary trends (mainly from social anthropology and economic sociology) that converge in the new commodity history. We will then engage 10 or so major monographs and synthetic studies that suggest the latest developments in the field. The topics include such historical products as sugar, rice, cotton, silver, chocolate, tobacco, teas, rubber, mahogany, mate, guano, bananas, tequila, and cocaine.

Pre-requisite: Enrollment in a History MA or PhD Program or permission of the instructor with enrollment under the HIS course number.