



# Course

SPRING 2007

HUMANITIES 597:

## A MICRO-SEMINAR WITH GEOFFREY PARKER

(1 credit) For SLN please go to: [www.simpsoncenter.org](http://www.simpsoncenter.org)

April 16—18 & 20, 2007

M, T, W, F: 3:30—5:20 pm

Communications 202

### Surviving the History Ph.D.

In conjunction with his visit to the University of Washington to deliver his Katz Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities, historian Geoffrey Parker will conduct a micro-seminar for graduate students. Work for the course is limited to readings and discussion.

This micro-seminar will serve as a workshop on how to write history. The first two sessions will focus on surviving the History Ph.D.: how to identify a subject, how to research it, how to write it up, and how to revise it for publication. Although many examples will come from Parker's areas of expertise—military and early modern history—he will adopt a broad approach to the problems posed by each stage of the graduate experience in History.

The second two sessions will deal with the problem of how to write “Big History.” Parker has just completed a book manuscript on a global history of the 1640s, a decade that saw both more wars and more cases of state breakdown around the world than any other. He will explain how he planned the work, revisit the problems he encountered in researching in so many different areas (both thematic and geographical), and justify the choices that he made. His Katz lecture, on April 19, entitled “Climate and Catastrophe: The World Crisis of the 17th Century,” will provide an introduction to the project.

**Geoffrey Parker** is the Andreas Dorpalen Professor of History at Ohio State University and an Associate of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. His best-known book, *The Military Revolution: Military Innovation and the Rise of the West, 1500-1800* (1988; revised edition 1996) won the Best Book award from the American Military Institute and the Dexter Prize from the Society for the History of Technology. His *Grand Strategy of Philip II* (1998) won the Samuel Eliot Morison Prize from the Society of Military History. In all he has authored or edited, alone or with colleagues, over thirty books—many of them translated into several foreign languages. He has held both a John Simon Guggenheim and a Harry Frank Guggenheim Fellowship and in 2006 he won an Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching at Ohio State University.