

HIST 610-002
Fall 2017
Thursdays 7:20-10 pm
West 1004
Office hours: R 3:15-4:15 pm
and by appt.

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THE STUDY AND WRITING OF HISTORY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines 20th and 21st century trends in historical analysis. We will pay particular attention to the historical fields and subfields that emerged since the 1960s (for example: social history; women's and gender history; the history of nationalism and nations; public history, etc.). The emergence and trajectories of social and cultural history are the broad rubrics under which most of our work will fall, and we will also be interested in the ways disciplinary boundaries have been crossed and enforced as history was influenced by trends in other disciplines and other disciplines turned to history.

In examining changes in historical practice we will be looking both at how historical and social forces affected historical practices and at debates within and among historical camps. Attention to the ways historians choose and interpret their sources, efforts to expand the realm of sources and the ways to use them, as well as changing forms of presentation will also form part of our discussions.

READINGS

The following books are required—please be sure to obtain latest edition. Unless otherwise noted, other course readings and materials have been posted on the class Blackboard site online. Readings that are available there are noted with a **BB** in the weekly breakdown.

Robert Townsend, *History's Babel*
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*
Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*
Kirk Savage, *Monument Wars*
Nancy MacLean, *Democracy in Chains*

I may distribute some materials in class—please have a way of keeping these materials with the rest of your notes and class materials. In general, please note that I may add, remove or change aspects of the course. It is my responsibility to provide you this information in a timely manner and I will update you both in class and electronically about such changes. It is your responsibility to keep up with these changes and other class news.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments will be described and discussed in class and I will also provide handouts as necessary. These additional class materials will also be posted on Blackboard. Please note that some assignments have to be submitted in class, some on Blackboard. **Please keep copies of all assignments (both those you submit and those I return to you after grading) as well as copies of any emails you send me, especially if they are about or contain class assignments.**

Class participation	15%	Based on attendance, preparation for and engagement with class discussions. First assignment on your reasons for studying history will be part of the participation grade.
Two short essays Due September 24 and November 19	30% (15% each)	4-6 pages. The first one (due September 24) will ask you to reflect on the development of the historical profession. The second one (due November 19) will ask you to discuss readings done since the midterm.

Midterm Take Home Essay Due electronically October 12	20%	6-8 double spaced pages. You will be provided with 2 or more questions at least ten days before the essay is due. These questions will ask you to synthesize and analyze readings. You will choose one question and write a well-organized and well-argued essay. Essay will have to draw on specific readings and be annotated. Except for reference materials (which, if you use them, will have to be specified) you are to use only class materials for this assignment.
Historiographic Review Essay Due December 17	35%	12-15 double-spaced pages. Students will choose a topic that fits into the general focus of this course, identify key secondary works and consider their historiographic significance. More detailed description of and instructions for the paper will be provided. ALL PAPER TOPICS HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE PROFESSOR.

WEEKLY SCHDEULE

By Sunday evening I will usually send an email message through Blackboard highlighting key themes, class news and reminders pertinent to the upcoming week. It is your responsibility to be sure you are on top of what will be posted. **You need to check Blackboard and gmu email regularly.** Readings have to be done in advance of class.

The topics listed below are general. Specific readings and themes will flow from one class to the next. As we progress, I will note when and how you need to adjust your preparation if we are not in sync with the syllabus.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
1	August 31	Introductions	General overview of syllabus and requirements History in present discourse
2	September 7	Becoming an Historian Assignment due in class	Read Syllabus Read personal accounts of how/why someone became an historian. Blackboard folder for Week 2 (BB 2) has seven historians explaining how they came to history, what history means to them, and/or how they understand history. I would like you to read all the accounts, but you HAVE TO read those by Carr, Hope, Appleby, Eley and Hartman. Assignment: Write a 2-3 page essay where you choose two of the essays you read to help you understand and explain your own interest in studying history. Assignment due in class and students have to prepare a presentation of their essay to do in class (max. 5 minutes!)
3	September 14	The History Profession	Robert Townsend, <i>History's Babel</i> Stephanie Smallwood, "The Politics of the Archive and History's Accountability to the Enslaved" BB 3
4	September 21	Social History	Peter Novick, <i>That Noble Dream</i> Fernand Braudel, <i>On History</i> E.P. Thompson, <i>Making of the English Working Class</i> , Intro E.P. Thompson, "Moral Economy of the English Crowd" Additional article... All in BB 4
→ →	September 23	Essay due	Upload to Blackboard by 11:59 pm. (Note: it's a Sunday!)
5	September 28	Gender	Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual" Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis" <i>AHR</i> Forum on "Gender..." All in BB 5

6	October 5	Race	WEB Du Bois, <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> Edward Said, <i>Orientalism</i> Barbara Fields and David Roediger, selections Walter Johnson, "The Slave Trader, the White Slave, and the Politics of Racial Determination in the 1850s" All in BB 6
7 →→	October 12	No class Midterm due	Midterm Due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm
8	October 19	Nations and Connections	Benedict Anderson, <i>Imagined Communities</i> Lisa Lowe, "History Hesitant" BB 8
9	October 26	Power I	Michel Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i> Michel Foucault, on biopower BB 9
10	November 2	Power II	Michel-Rolph Trouillot, <i>Silencing the Past</i>
11	November 9	Public History	Kirk Savage, <i>Monument Wars</i> Madge Dresser, "Set in Stone? Statues and Slavery in London" BB 11
12	November 16	New Media or Environment?	Class choice
→	November 19	Essay due	Upload to Blackboard by 11:59 pm. (Note: it's a Sunday!)
13	November 23	No Class	Thanksgiving Break
14	November 30	Political/ Economic History and Controversy	Nancy MacLean, <i>Democracy in Chains</i> Reviews and reactions to <i>Democracy in Chains</i> BB 14
15	December 7	Wrapping Up	Student Presentations and Class Celebrations
→→	December 17	Historiographic Essay	Due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm

ADD/DROP DEADLINES

Last day to add classes—all individualized section forms due

September 5

Last day to drop with no tuition penalty

September 5

Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty

September 19

Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)

September 29

HONOR CODE

This course is governed by the GMU honor code. The Honor Code states: "Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work." Full Honor Code description can be found online at <http://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/>

LEARNING ACCOMODATIONS

If you are a student with a disability or need academic accommodation, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

BASIC RULES

- You are expected to read materials before class and be prepared to discuss them.
- Cell phones are to be turned off (if I forget to do this two or more times, I will owe you a snack).
- Drinks are ok, food is not (you have a 10 minute break—bring food with you).