

History 610-003: The Study and Writing of History
Fall 2017
Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Stamatina McGrath

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Office Hours: Wed. 6:00-7:00pm, Tu/Th. 12:00-1:00pm

Office: Rob B 371B

Class: Rob A 210

This course will introduce the graduate student to the methods of historical analysis developed by twentieth-century historians. We will focus on examining the ways in which ideological trends influence how historians pose questions, do research, use evidence and synthesize their results when writing history.

Schedule

August 30	Introduction
September 6	John Lewis Gaddis, <i>The Landscape of History</i>
September 13	Bryan Ward-Perkins, <i>The Fall of Rome: And the End of Civilization</i> Topics for final paper due
September 20	Fernand Braudel, <i>On History</i>
September 27	Toyin Falola and Christian Jennings (eds.), <i>Sources and Methods in African History</i>
October 4	Michel-Rolph Trouillot, <i>Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History</i> (20 th anniversary edition)
October 11	Keith Jenkins, <i>Re-Thinking History</i> Annotated bibliography for final paper due
October 18	Peter Charles Hoffer, <i>Past Imperfect</i>

October 25	Arlette Farge, <i>The Allure of the Archives</i>
November 1	Thavolia Glymph, <i>Out of the House of Bondage</i> Outline for final paper due
November 8	Lynn Hunt, <i>Writing History in the Global Era</i>
November 15	Dipesh Chakrabarty, <i>Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference (new edition)</i>
November 22	Thanksgiving Break
November 29	Constantin Fasolt, <i>Limits of History</i> Rough drafts of final papers
December 6	Natalie Zemon Davis, <i>The Return of Martin Guerre</i> Rough drafts of final papers AND Oral presentation on final essay
December 13	Final Papers Due

Required Texts

Title: *On History*
 Author: Fernand Braudel
 ISBN: 9780674766914

Title: *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference (New Edition)*
 Author: Dipesh Chakrabarty
 ISBN: 9780691130019

Title: *Essayng the Past*
 Author: Jim Cullen
 ISBN: 9781119111900

Title: *The Return of Martin Guerre*
 Author: Natalie Zemon Davis
 ISBN: 9780674766914

Title: *Sources and Methods in African History: Spoken, Written, Unearthed*
 Author: Toyin Falola and Christian Jennings (eds.)
 ISBN: 9781580461405

Title: *The Allure of the Archives*
Author: Arlette Farge
ISBN: 9780300176735

Title: *The Limits of History*
Author: Constantin Fasolt
ISBN: 9780226101248

Title: *The Landscape of History*
Author: John Lewis Gaddis
ISBN: 9780195171570

Title: *Past Imperfect*
Author: Peter Charles Hoffer
ISBN: 9781586484453

Title: *Out of the House of Bondage: The Transformation of the Plantation Household*
Author: Thavolia Glymph
ISBN: 9780521703987

Title: *Writing History in the Global Era*
Author: Lynn Hunt
ISBN: 9780393351170

Title: *Rethinking History*
Author: Keith Jenkins
ISBN: 9780415304436

Title: *Silencing the Past (20th anniversary edition): Power and the Production of History (2nd edition)*
Author: Michel-Rolph Trouillot
ISBN: 9780807080535

Title: *The Fall of Rome and the End of Civilization*
Author: Bryan Ward-Perkins
ISBN: 9780192807281

Assignments and Grades

1. Class participation counts for 10% of the grade. It includes **attendance, contribution class discussions, and preparation of weekly readings.**
[10% of total grade]
2. **Reaction Essays:** Each student must turn in a brief reaction essay (no longer than one page) on **each week's readings.** The types of questions you might address are:
 1. Do you agree or disagree with in the book's thesis and approach?
 2. Can you identify the ideological framework behind the reading?
 3. Does the author (or authors) accomplish his/her intended goal(s)?

Obtaining a library card from the Library of Congress can substitute for one essay (please provide copy of the card and indicate which week's reaction you wish to skip). **You are not required to write a reaction on the books you present in oral reports.** [20% of total grade]

3. Class Presentations: Each student will participate in two, twenty minute group oral presentations from the books on the Required Texts list. You will need to coordinate the presentation with the other members of your group. Along with an **evaluation of the book** each team is required to present a **brief biography of the author** and **summarize 3-5 academic reviews** on the publication. [Each 5% each for a total of 10% of the total grade]

4. 2 Book Reviews: Each student must also submit a 5-page book review **one week** after his/her presentation on the same topic. Book reviews should briefly summarize the book's argument, but should also focus on a critical appraisal of the author's sources and approach and should attempt to place the piece within the corpus of literature of its time and type. The review essay must include a bibliography and footnotes. [Each 15% of the class grade for a total of 30%]

5. The Final Paper: will be a historiographic essay due no later than **December 13**. The paper should be approximately 15 pages in length, double spaced, with footnotes and bibliography (please follow Chicago Style). This paper will present the discussion of the historiographic tradition specific to a historical topic and should reflect the area of interest or specialization of each student. Topics must be presented to the instructor by **September 13**. Bibliographies and Outlines should be turned in by **October 11** and **November 1** respectively. Rough drafts of the final paper are due between **November 29 and December 6** and on **December 6** you will be responsible for a 5-minute oral presentation on your paper discussing the results of your study. [30% of total grade]

If you cannot attend class, please notify the instructor in advance and make every effort to keep up with each week's reading assignments.