

History 610-002: The Study and Writing of History
Fall 2012
Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Matina McGrath
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Class: Krug Hall 204

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.

Schedule

- August 29 Introduction
- September 5 Anna Green and Kathleen Troup, The Houses of History: A Critical Reader in Twentieth Century History and Theory
- September 12 Martha Howell, From Reliable Sources
Topics for final paper due
- September 19 Peter Novick, That Noble Dream
- September 26 Appleby, Hunt and Jacob, Telling the Truth About History
- October 3 Georg Iggers, Global History of Modern Historiography
- October 10 E.P. Thompson, The Making of the English Working Class
Bibliography for final paper due.
- October 17 Thomas Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions
- October 24 Joan Scott, Gender and the Politics of History
Outline for final paper due.
- October 31 Edward Said, Orientalism
- November 7 Eugene Genovese, Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made
- November 14 Carlo Ginzburg, The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller and Natalie Zemon Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre

November 21 Thanksgiving Holiday

November 28 Laurel Ulrich, A Midwife's Tale

December 5 Oral presentations on final papers

December 12 Final papers due.

Required Texts

Joyce Appleby. Telling the Truth About History. W.W. Norton, 1994

Martha Howell and Walter Prevenier. From Reliable Sources. Cornell University Press, 2001

Natalie Zemon Davis. The Return of Martin Guerre. Harvard University Press, 1983

Eugene Genovese. Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made. Vintage Press, 1976

Anna Green and Kathleen Troup. The Houses of History: A Critical Reader in Twentieth Century History and Theory. Manchester University Press, 1999

Carlo Ginzburg. The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth Century Miller. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992 [1976]

Georg Iggers, Q. Edward Wang, and Supriya Mukherjee. Global History of Modern Historiography. Pearson Education Limited, 2008

Thomas Kuhn. The Structure of Scientific Revolutions. University of Chicago Press, 1996

Peter Novick. That Noble Dream: The "Objectivity Question" and the American Historical Profession. Cambridge University Press, 1988

Edward Said. Orientalism. Random House, 1994

Joan Wallach Scott. Gender and the Politics of History. Columbia University Press, 1999

E.P. Thompson. The Making of the English Working Class. Random House, 1966

Kate Turabian. Revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Seventh Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing). The University of Chicago Press, 2007

Laurel Ulrich. A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812. Vintage Books, 1991

Assignments and Grades

1. Class participation counts for 20% of the grade. It consists of participation in class discussions and weekly preparation of a single paragraph reaction essay. The short paragraph reaction essay (**not a summary**) should deal with a significant idea or concept in the reading and should be turned in to the instructor at the end of each class. No letter grade will be given for the reaction essays, however, they constitute an important part of the class participation grade. Obtaining a library card from the Library of Congress can substitute for one reaction essay (please provide copy of the card and indicate which week's reaction essay you wish to substitute it for).
2. Class Presentations: Each student will be responsible for making two twenty minute oral presentations from the books on the Required Texts list. The value of each presentation is 2.5% of your total grade. Each student must also submit a five to seven page book/article review one week after his/her presentation on the same topic as the oral presentation (no need to turn in a reaction essay on the book you review). Book reviews should briefly summarize the book/article'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 proper bibliography and footnotes or endnotes. [20% for each book review for a total of 40% of your total class grade]
3. The Final paper will be a historiographic essay due no later than December 12. The paper should be approximately 12-15 pages in length, double spaced, with footnotes/endnotes and bibliography. [35% of your total grade]. This paper will present the discussion of the historiographic tradition and methods used regarding the study of a particular topic in history and should reflect the area of interest or specialization of each student. Topics must be presented to the instructor by September 12. Bibliographies and Outlines should be turned in by October 10 and October 24 respectively. On December 5 you will be responsible for a 5 minute oral presentation on your paper discussing the results of your study.
4. Class participation constitutes a large part of your grade. If you cannot attend class you must notify the instructor in advance, if possible, and make every effort to keep up with each week's reading assignments.