### History 610-002: The Study and Writing of History

**Spring 2014**

**Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Dr. Stamatina McGrath  
**Phone numbers:** 571-214-2500 (c), 703-993-1250 (o)  
**E-mail address:** smcgrath@gmu.edu, vasileus@aol.com  
**Office Hours:** Wed. 6:00-7:00pm  
**Office:** Rob B 371B  
**Class:** Research Hall 202

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>James Banner, <em>Being a Historian: An Introduction to the Professional World of History</em></td>
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| February 5   | Peter Novick, *That Noble Dream* p. 1-278  
Topics for final paper due |
| February 12  | Peter Novick, *That Noble Dream* p. 281-648                          |
| February 19  | Thomas L. Charlton. *History of Oral History: Foundations and Methodology* |
| February 26  | E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*             |
| March 5      | Seth Bruggeman, *Here George Washington Was Born: Memory, Material Culture and the Public History of a National Monument*  
Annotated bibliography for final paper due |
| March 12     | Spring Break                                                          |
March 19  Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
Outline for final paper due

March 26  Catherine M. Orr, Ann Braithwaite and Diane Lichtenstein, *Rethinking Women's and Gender Studies*

April 2  Israel Gershoni, Amy Singer, and Y. Hakan Erdem, Middle East Historiographies *Narrating the Twentieth Century*

April 9  Eugene Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made*

April 16  Carlo Ginzburg. *Ecstasies: Deciphering the Witches' Sabbath*
Rough drafts of final papers

April 23  Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*

April 30  Oral presentations on final papers

May 7  Final papers due

**Required Texts**


Israel Gershoni, Amy Singer, and Y. Hakan Erdem, eds. Middle East Historiographies *Narrating the Twentieth Century*. University of Washington Press, 2006


**Assignments and Grades**

1. Class participation counts for 10% of the grade. It includes 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:
   - Do you agree or disagree with in the book’s thesis and approach?
   - Can you identify the ideological framework behind the reading?
   - Does the author (or authors) accomplish their 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. [10% of total grade]

2. Class Presentations: Each student will participate in two twenty minute group oral presentations from the books on the Required Texts list. [Each 2.5% of total grade]

3. Book Review: Each student must also submit a five 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 20% of total class grade]

4. The Final paper will be a historiographic essay due no later than May 7. The paper should be approximately 15 pages in length, double spaced, with footnotes and bibliography. [35% of total grade] This paper will present the discussion of the historiographic tradition of a particular topic and should reflect the area of interest or specialization of each student. Topics must be presented to the instructor by February 5. Bibliographies and Outlines should be turned in by March 5 and March 19 respectively. On April 16 drafts of the final paper are due and on April 30 you will be responsible for a 5 minute oral presentation on your paper discussing the results of your study.

If you cannot attend class please notify the instructor in advance and make every effort to keep up with each week’s reading assignments.
### Spring 2014 Schedule

**January 1 Day of Week**

Martin Luther King Day (no classes)

**First day of classes, last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date; full semester waitlists removed**

Summer 2014 Graduation Intent Available via Patriot Web

**Last day to add classes—**all individualized section forms due

Last day to drop with no tuition penalty

**Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty**

**Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)**

Last day to file your Spring 2014 Graduation Intent

Immunization Record Deadline

Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via [Patriot Web](#)

Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)

Spring Break

**Incomplete work from Fall 2013 due to Instructor**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incomplete grade changes from Fall 2013 due to Registrar</td>
<td>Fri Apr 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation/Thesis Deadline</td>
<td>Fri May 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
<td>Mon May 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Days</td>
<td>Tue May 6 – Wed May 14</td>
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<td>Reading days provide students with additional study time for final examinations. Faculty may schedule optional study sessions, but regular classes or exams may not be held.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Period (beginning at 7:30 a.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commencement and Degree Conferral Date</td>
<td>May 17</td>
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