

History 610.001: Study and Writing of History
Fall 2020
Mondays 7:20-10 pm
Online

Professor Joan Bristol

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Office hours: Tuesday 4-5 on BB Collaborate

This course examines trends in historical analysis and focuses primarily on the work of twentieth- and twenty-first-century scholars working in the United States. Although most of the texts are about early modern Europe and the Americas, this class is focused on historiography rather than on a specific region or time period. We will discuss the way that historians choose and interpret their sources, the elements that affect their interpretations, and how and why these interpretations have developed and changed over time.

Blackboard login instructions.

We will use Blackboard for this course. You can access Blackboard at <http://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>. Log in and click on the “courses” tab. You will see HIST-610-002. Your username and password is the same as those you use for your Mason email account. You must have consistent access to an internet connection in order to complete the assignments in this course and you must have a microphone and a camera to use with your computer.

Assignments and grading:

- 1) *Class participation (33% of the final grade).* Participation will be measured by involvement in class discussions. We will have class discussions online on Zoom. The Zoom links will be on Blackboard. **Collaborating verbally with your colleagues is the most important part of graduate classes.**

- 2) *Class discussion board (33% of final grade):* You will post to the discussion board (on Blackboard) **ten times** over the course of the semester. I will send you a progress report in October to let you know how you are doing.
For the first six weeks I will create threads with questions. You will post answers in two different threads. **These are called “posts.”** They should be 150-300 words. Only four people may post in each thread. So if four people have already posted in the thread you choose, you must choose a different thread. The post should be on the discussion board by the Saturday before class, at 12 pm noon.
You will then respond to two people, in two threads that you did not participate in the first time. (So you will respond to a total of two posts.) **These are called “responses.”** They should be 150-300 words. Your responses should be posted by Monday at 12 pm noon.
After the first six weeks you may create your own threads or respond to other threads. You may write about some aspect of the readings that you found interesting or puzzling, you may compare it to other books we have read, you can write about

the sources the author used, or you may do something else. The requirement is that you make clear that you have read, understood, and thought about the book and that you are able to assess it in a holistic way and make connections to the larger class theme.

3) *Essay, due at the end of the semester (33% of the final grade)*. Please see the assignment below.

Class policies:

1) Please arrive in the Zoom space on time and stay for the entire class period. If you know that you will be late to class or that you need to leave early please let me know ahead of time.

2) Please do not share the zoom link with anyone.

3) Keep your camera on during class.

4) I reserve the right to record the class if I decide it would be useful. That is not my plan at the moment.

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

Honor Code:

George Mason has an honor code and you are expected to adhere to it. It is as follows: “To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.” (<https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/>)

If I suspect plagiarism or other forms of cheating I will submit my findings to the Honor Committee immediately. Thus it is best if you consult me with any questions about plagiarism before you hand in an assignment, rather than afterwards because I cannot help you then.

Required texts

The books are available for purchase in the bookstore and from other booksellers, on reserve in the library, and through WRLC and ILL (in all cases this should be the most recent paperback edition). **An ** means that we have an online edition available through the library. However, please double-check as our holdings may have changed since I last checked.**

Books:

Bloch, *Feudal Society I*
Cronon, *Changes in the Land*
**Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*
Hooper, *Feeding Globalization*
**Obeyesekere, *Apotheosis of Captain Cook*
**Prescott, *History of the Conquest of Mexico*
**Townsend, *History's Babel*
Townsend, *Malintzin's Choices*
**Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*

In addition to these books there are some required articles. Unless otherwise noted these articles are available online through the library.

Schedule:

Week 1 (August 24): History as a Profession I

****Please read this before you come to class on the first day.****

American Historical Association, *Statement on Standards of Professional Conduct*.

<https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/statements-and-standards-of-the-profession/statement-on-standards-of-professional-conduct>.

Monday 8/31 Last day to add classes.

Week 2 (August 31): History as a Profession II

Townsend, *History's Babel* (2013)

NO CLASS MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 (LABOR DAY)

Tuesday 9/8 Last day to drop with 100% refund.

Week 3 (September 14): Producing Histories

****Trouillot, *Silencing the Past* (1995). This is available online through the library as an ACLS Humanities e-book.**

Week 4 (September 21): 19th-Century Historical Narrative

****Prescott, *History of the Conquest of Mexico* (1843). Please read Book II: Discovery of Mexico and Book IV: Residence in Mexico. Many versions of this book exist, and one is available online through the library on the Sabin Americana website. Whatever version you choose please make sure you read the version with footnotes.**

Due today: By the beginning of class please email me one term that you think would not be in a 2020 version of the Dictionary of Concepts in History and one that you think should be in a 2020 version. This is related to the final assignment (discussed below).

Week 5 (September 28): Annales I

Bloch, *Feudal Society* Vol. 1 (1939)

Week 6 (October 5): Annales II and Global History I

Reading: TBA.

Week 7 (October 13 – Monday classes meet on Tuesday this week): Marxist History/Class

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party* (1848), Chapter I, “Bourgeois and Proletarians.” This is available online at the Marxist Internet Archive.

Karl Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (1852), Chapter I, beginning with “Hegel remarks somewhere” and ending with “Hic Rhodus, hic salta!” It is about 7 pages. This is available online at the Marxist Internet Archive.

E.P. Thompson, “Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism,” *Past & Present* 38 (1967): 56-97.

E.P. Thompson, “The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century,” *Past & Present* 50 (1971): 76-136.

Week 8 (October 19): Discourse and Social Construction

**Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (1974). This is available online through the library.

Week 9 (October 26): Historiography of Race

Barbara J. Fields, “Ideology and Race in American History,” in *Religion, Race, and Reconstruction*, 1982. This is on the Blackboard site for the class, under “Readings.”

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, “African-American Women’s History and the Metalanguage of Race,” *Signs* 17(2): 251-274 (1992)

Michael O’Malley. “Specie and Species: Race and the Money Question in Nineteenth-Century America,” *The American Historical Review* 99 (2): 369-95 (1994)

Nell Irvin Painter, “Thinking about the Languages of Money and Race: A Response to Michael O’Malley, “Specie and Species”.” *The American Historical Review* 99 (2): 396-404 (1994)

Michael O’Malley, “Response to Nell Irvin Painter,” *The American Historical Review* 99 (2): 405-08 (1994)

Nell Irvin Painter, YouTube talk on *The History of White People* (2011)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDZUBX_nY_0

Week 10 (November 2): Environmental History

Cronon, *Changes in the Land* (1983)

Due today: Five-page essay explaining one of the terms you have chosen for your final essay.

Discuss why this term should be included or why it should be excluded. Please support your ideas with evidence from at least three readings we have done this semester. Please email it to me in Word by the beginning of class.

Week 11 (November 9): Gender History

Joan W. Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *American Historical Review* 91:5 (December 1986): 1053-1075.

Joanne Meyerowitz, "A History of 'Gender,'" *American Historical Review* 113:5 (December 2008): 1346-1356.

Joan W. Scott, "Unanswered Questions," *American Historical Review* 113:5 (December 2008): 1422-1430.

Toby L. Ditz, "Shipwrecked; or, Masculinity Imperiled: Mercantile Representations of Failure and the Gendered Self in Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia," *Journal of American History* 81:1 (June 1994): 51-80.

Jennifer L. Morgan, "'Some Could Suckle over Their Shoulder': Male Travelers, Female Bodies, and the Gendering of Racial Ideology," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd Ser., 54 (1): 167-192 (1997)

Week 12 (November 16): Post-Colonial History

Obeyesekere, *Apotheosis of Captain Cook* (1992). **This is available online through the library as an ACLS Humanities e-book;

Bernstein, "Books of the Times; Cook Was (a) God or (b) Not a God," May 24, 1995 *New York Times*.

Week 13 (November 23): 21st-Century Historical Narrative

Townsend, *Malintzin's Choices* (2006)

Week 14 (November 30): Global History II

Hooper, *Feeding Globalization* (2017)

FINAL PAPER DUE Friday December 11. Please email it to me in Word.

History 610 Fall 2020 Final paper assignment

DUE Friday December 11. Please email the papers to me in Word.

Please look at Harry Ritter, *Dictionary of Concepts in History*, Greenwood Press, 1986 (available at Fenwick Library and online through HathiTrust) and discuss:

- a) two entries in the 1986 text that would not appear in a 2020 version
- b) two entries that are not in the 1986 text that would appear in a 2020 version

Explain your answers and tie them together with an overarching thesis that explains some aspect of the historiography we have discussed this semester. Support your ideas with information from at least six texts that we have discussed in class. Feel free to bring in texts and ideas from your other classes, past and present.

The goal of this paper is to demonstrate that 1) you understand the issues we've discussed in class and 2) that you can talk about the books we've read in a confident and comprehensive way.

Due dates related to this paper:

September 21: Please email me one term that you think would not be in a 2020 version and one that you think should be in a 2020 version.

November 2: Five-page essay explaining one of the terms you have chosen. Why should this term be included or why should this term be excluded? Please support your ideas with evidence from at least three readings we have done this semester. Please email it to me in Word.

Friday December 11: Final paper. Please email it to me in Word.

The final paper should be between 15 and 25 pages, 12 point font, double-spaced.