

History 610.001: Study and Writing of History
Spring 2022
Thursday 7:20 pm – 10:00 pm
Krug Hall 209

Professor Joan Bristol

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Office hours: By appointment on zoom. Email me and we can set up a time. I am very happy to meet and I am flexible about time.

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-610-001. Your username and password is the same as those you use for your Mason email account. *If we have to move online temporarily for any reason the zoom link will be in Blackboard.*

Assignments and grading:

- 1) *Class participation (33% of the final grade).* Participation will be measured by involvement in class discussions. **Collaborating verbally with your colleagues is the most important part of graduate classes.** I will send you a progress report in early March to let you know how you are doing.
- 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 (this means that you do not have to participate every week, but if you post one week please also respond that week). I will send you a progress report in early March to let you know how you are doing.

For the first six weeks I will create threads with questions. You will post answers to one of these. **These are called “posts.”** They should be 150-300 words. The post should be on the discussion board by the Tuesday before class, at 5 pm.

You will then respond to one post in a thread (or thread) that you did not participate in the first time. **These are called “responses.”** They should be 150-300 words. Your responses should be posted by Thursday at 5 pm.

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 class 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) 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 widely available for purchase, on reserve in the library, and available through WRLC and ILL (in all cases this should be the most recent paperback edition). The only books that are not available online through the library are the Hooper, which is available through the campus bookstore, and the Foucault, which is widely available. **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:

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Jane Hooper, *Feeding Globalization*

**McNeill, *Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean*

**Obeyesekere, *Apotheosis of Captain Cook*

**Prescott, *History of the Conquest of Mexico (selections)*

**Schrag, *Princeton Guide to Historical Research* – this is only available through the library in a limited way; probably best to buy it.

****Townsend, *History's Babel***

****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 (January 27): History as a Profession I

Please read these 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>.

Peter Novick, "(The Death of) the Ethics of Historical Practice (And Why I Am Not in Mourning)." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 560.1 (1998): 28–42.

Monday Jan 31 is the last day to add a class.

Week 2 (February 3): How to be an historian

****Zachary Schrag, *Princeton Guide to Historical Research* (2021). This is available online through the library BUT they only allow one user at a time. So it would probably be best to buy it. It is a good resource to own.**

Monday February 7 is the last day to drop a class with full tuition refund.

Week 3 (February 10): History as a Profession II

****Robert Townsend. *History's Babel* (2013) This is available online through the library.**

Week 4 (February 17): Producing Histories

****Michel-Rolph Trouillot. *Silencing the Past* (1995). This is available online through the library.**

Week 5 (February 24): 19th-Century Historical Narrative

****William 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 several are available online through the library. 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 should not be in a 2022 version of the Dictionary of Concepts in History and one that you think should be in a 2022 version. This is related to the final assignment (discussed below).

Week 6 (March 3): Annales and Global History I

1. Huppert, George. "Lucien Febvre and Marc Bloch: The Creation of the Annales." *The French Review* 55, no. 4 (1982): 510–13.

2. J.H. Hexter, "Fernand Braudel and the Monde Braudellien," *Journal of Modern History* 44 (1972): 480-539. Available through the library on JSTOR.
3. Fernand Braudel TOC and prefaces to the 1995 ed. of Vol. 1 of *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*. (ON BLACKBOARD).
4. Braudel, Intro to Part I: The Role of the Environment" (pp. 23-34) and Chapter 1 "The Peninsulas: Mountains, Plateaux, and Plains" (pp. 25-102). (ON BLACKBOARD).
5. Braudel Part I Chapter 5, "The Mediterranean as a Human Unit: Communication and Cities," (pp. 276-354), Part II Intro., "Collective Destinies and General Trends," (pp. 353-354) and Part II Chapter 1, "Economies: The Measure of the Century" (355-461). (ON BLACKBOARD).

Week 7 (March 10): 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.**
- 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.
- C.L.R. James, *Black Jacobins*, Chapter 4 (ON BLACKBOARD).

March 17 is spring break – no class!

Week 8 (March 24): Discourse and Social Construction

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (1974).

Week 9 (March 31): Historiography of Race

- Barbara J. Fields, "Ideology and Race in American History," in *Religion, Race, and Reconstruction*, 1982 (ON BLACKBOARD).
- 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, What Can 'The History of White People' Teach Us About Race in America? (2019) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijQNSJH4jBY>

Week 10 (April 7): 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 11 (April 14): Post-Colonial History

****Obeyesekere, Apotheosis of Captain Cook (1992). This is available online through the library.**

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

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 12 (April 21): Environmental History

****McNeill, John Robert, *Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean* (2010) This is available online through the library.**

Week 13 (April 28): Global History II

Jane Hooper, *Feeding Globalization* (2017)

Week 14 (May 5): Digital History

Guidelines for the Professional Evaluation of Digital Scholarship by Historians

<https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/digital-history-resources/evaluation-of-digital-scholarship-in-history/guidelines-for-the-professional-evaluation-of-digital-scholarship-by-historians>

Scheinfeldt, Tom. "Theory, Method, and Digital Humanities." In *Hacking the Academy: New Approaches to Scholarship and Teaching from Digital Humanities*, edited by Tom Scheinfeldt and Daniel J. Cohen, 55–60.

Enslaved Children of George Mason <https://ecgm.omeka.net/>

Six Degrees of Francis Bacon

http://www.sixdegreesoffrancisbacon.com/?ids=10000473&min_confidence=60&type=network

Maritime Asia: War and Trade <https://maritime-asia.org/>

Intimate Fields <https://hyperrhiz.github.io/intimate-fields/authors.html>

FINAL PAPER DUE Monday May 16 by 5 pm. Please email it to me in Word.

History 610 Fall 2022 Final paper assignment

DUE Monday May 16 by 5 pm. Please email it to me in Word.

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

- a) two entries in the 1986 text that would not appear in a 2022 version
- b) one entry that is not in the 1986 text that would appear in a 2022 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, but make sure that you fully explore the texts for class as well as outside texts.

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:

February 24: Please email me one term that you think would not be in a 2022 version and one that you think should be in a 2022 version.

April 14: 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.

Monday May 16: Final paper. Please email it to me in Word.

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