HIST 5394 Historiography

This course examines the development of historical theory and writing mainly in the western tradition. It examines the greatest contributions by historians and schools of thought within the historical framework. Other topics included are the nature and philosophy of history, the variety of methodologies employed, the current status of the historical profession.


Grading the Course:
- Oral Presentations and Class Participation 40%
- Historiographical Paper 40%
- Essay on Personal Philosophy of History 20%

Course Outline:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject of the Class</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Orientation and Discussion</td>
<td>Preface and Intro.</td>
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<td><strong>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY NO CLASS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History in Ancient Greece and Rome</td>
<td>Chapters 1-6</td>
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<td>“Everyman His Own Historian” by Carl Becker in AHR, Jan. 1932.</td>
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<td>Mythistory, Chapter 1, by William. H. McNeill (on reserve)</td>
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<td><strong>PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH TOPIC: FIRST CALL</strong></td>
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<td>History in Medieval Europe</td>
<td>7-10</td>
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<td><strong>DEADLINE FOR SELECTING BOOK ON TOPIC #1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH TOPIC: DEADLINE</strong></td>
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<td>History in the Era of Humanism and Rationalism</td>
<td>11-13</td>
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<td>Discuss Statement on Standards of Professional Conduct of AHA etc. at</td>
<td><a href="http://www.historians.org/pubs/Free/Professionalstandards.htm">http://www.historians.org/pubs/Free/Professionalstandards.htm</a></td>
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<td><strong>ORAL PRESENTATIONS ON TOPIC #1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NO CLASS MEETING</strong></td>
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<td>History in an Era of Liberalism and Nationalism</td>
<td>14-16</td>
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<td><strong>DEADLINE FOR SELECTING BOOK ON TOPIC #2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ORAL PRESENTATION ON TOPIC #2</strong></td>
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<td>Modern Scientific History</td>
<td>17-23</td>
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<td>Contemporary Historiography</td>
<td>24-28 and Epilogue</td>
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<td><strong>DEADLINE: ESSAY ON PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY</strong></td>
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ORAL PRESENTATION ON SEMESTER RESEARCH PROJECT

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Discussion of Miscellaneous Issues on the Status of the History Profession

DEADLINE FOR RESEARCH PAPER

Description of Assignments

(1) **Oral Presentations.** Several presentations are part of this course. They deal with the following: (a) a book from Topic #1 about non-traditional historical methodology; (b) a book from Topic #2 about the nature and philosophy of history; and (c) the conceptualization, research, and findings in your semester historiographical paper. Criteria for these presentations appear below and will be discussed in class.

(2) **Historiographical Paper.** The paper (approximately 20 pages) is historiographical by nature. It may focus on one of two things: (a) a topic that has been the object of historiographical debate about which a significant body of literature exists or (b) the work of one historian who has significantly contributed to the western historical tradition. The paper will be typed (Times New Roman 12 pt. only unless something else is approved in advance) and double-spaced, consistent with Turabian style, and composed of the following elements: title page, text of the paper, footnotes or endnotes, and bibliography. The topic must be approved no later than the third class session of the semester.

(3) **Essay on Personal Philosophy of History.** This essay is a statement of the student's current philosophy of history as it has been informed by the study of history at the undergraduate and graduate levels and the development of historical writing in the western tradition as studied in this course. This essay will be typed and double-spaced (Times New Roman 12 pt. unless something else is approved in advance) and contain no title page, citations, or bibliography. Appropriate length is determined by the writer.

(4) **Participation.** Each member of the class is expected to take part in the class sessions by making appropriate oral presentations, asking questions, adding comments and insights gained from experience and recent readings, and discussing the reading assignments for each week. Absence and tardiness deprive the student of opportunities for participation.

(5) **Miscellaneous Assignments.** From time to time, the professor will assign reading and discussion of various short selections, e.g., handouts or materials available on library reserve or the Internet or posted on Blackboard.
Class Policies

(1) **Attendance.** Attendance at all class sessions is expected. In case of serious illness or emergency, please contact the professor in advance of the class meeting time.

(2) **Promptness and Courtesy.** Tardiness is not acceptable. It is disruptive to the class and discourteous to both professor and students. Students should not wear caps or hats to class. Pagers and telephones must be turned off in class. Food is not permitted in the classroom.

(3) **Reporting of Grades.** As soon as they are calculated, final grades are posted electronically and can be accessed through Campus Connect.
Guide to Oral Presentations in Class

Some Suggested Elements for Oral Presentations on Books from Topics #1 and #2

Identification of the title, author, and date of publication.
Explanation of the main thesis, line of argument, overall structure. Be precise and substantive.
   In these presentations, it may not be necessary to give a comprehensive account of the book. In some cases, it might be better to simply focus on the most characteristic, enlightening, or useful portion of the author's message.
Evaluation of the book (e.g., its clarity, usefulness, shortcomings).

Elements of the Major Oral Presentation on the Research Project

The major presentation should include (1) an explanation of the thesis or purpose of the research paper and (2) an overall view of the project. It should (3) identify primary sources and some major secondary sources, (4) discuss the methodology used and problems or questions that arose in the course of the research and writing, and (5) provide a summary of the findings. The presentation must be clear, substantive, and well organized.

Major Criteria Used in Evaluating Oral Presentations

(1) Clarity. Does the presenter explain ideas clearly, defining terms when necessary, using the board or visual aids if helpful?

(2) Comprehension. Does the presenter comprehend the subject and sources under consideration as evidenced, for example, by a presentation using his or her own words, by an ability to answer questions about the research topic and the materials used, and by being able to make appropriate generalizations about the literature on the topic?

(3) Evaluation. Does the presenter evaluate the book, addressing such items as its clarity, usefulness, importance, shortcomings, etc.?

(4) Organization. Does the presenter organize the material well, selecting material appropriately and adhering to the time limit within reason?
READING LISTS FOR HIST 5394

All books can be found in the Muntz Library except those marked with an asterisk. You may order the latter through interlibrary loan or, in some cases, borrow them from the professor. Substitutions may be acceptable, but they must be approved in advance.

**Topic #1. Non-Traditional Methodologies.**

**Archives**
Cook, Michael. Archives Administration.
Ham, F. Gerald. Selecting and Appraising Archives and Manuscripts.
Pederson, Ann. (ed.). Keeping Archives

**Cliometrics (Quantitative History)**

**Oral History**
Allen, Barbara. From Memory to History: Using Oral Sources in Local Historical Research.
Baum, Willa K. Oral History for the Local Historical Society. (FYI only)
Baum, Willa K. Transcribing and Editing Oral History. (FYI only)
Charlton, Thomas. Oral History for Texans.
Grele, Ronald J. Envelopes of Sound: Six Practitioners Discuss the Method, Theory, and Practice of Oral History and Oral Testimony
Henige, David. Oral Historiography. (*
Neuenschwander, John A. Oral History as a Teaching Approach.
Ritchie, Donald. Doing Oral History.

**Psychohistory**
DeMause, Lloyd. The New Psychohistory.
Friedlander, S.. History and Psychoanalysis.
Gay, Peter. Freud for Historians. (1985)
Kren, G. and Leon Rappoport. (eds.) Varieties of Psychohistory.
Lifton, Robert J. (ed.). Explorations in Psychohistory.
Wolman, Benjamin. (ed.). The Psychoanalytic Interpretation of History.

**Public History**
Howe, Barbara and Emory L. Kemp. Public History: An Introduction. (1986)
The Public Historian. (FYI only)
Trask, David F. and Robert W. Pomer. The Craft of Public History: An Annotated Select Bibliography.

Miscellaneous Fields within Public History: Documentary Editing and Use of Film
Kline, Mary Jo. A Guide to Documentary Editing.
Murray, Bruce A. and Christopher J. Wickham.(eds.). Framing the Past: The Historiography of German Cinema and Television. (electronic book only)
Smith, Paul. (ed.) The Historian and Film. (FYI).

Topic #2. Nature and Philosophy of History

Bloch, Marc. The Historian's Craft.
Brown, Donald E. Hierarchy, History and Human Nature: The Social Origins of Historical Consciousness.
Carr, E. H. What is History?
Chesneaux, J. Pasts and Futures or What is History For?
Collingwood, R. G. Essays in the Philosophy of History.
Collingwood, R.G. The Principles of History and Other Writings in Philosophy of History. (1999)
Croce, Benedetto. History as the Story of Liberty.
Pain, Haskell. Between Philosophy and History.
Fukuyama, Francis. The End of History and the Last Man.
Ganson, William. Kant and the Problem of History.
Gay, Peter et al. Historians at Work. (4 vols.)
Handlin, Oscar. Truth in History.
Hexter, J. H. The History Primer.
Jenkins, Keith (ed.). The Postmodern History Reader. (1997)
Lefkowitz, Mary. Not Out of Africa: How "Afrocentrist" Became an Excuse to Teach Myth as History.
Manuel, Frank F. Freedom from History.
Mazlish, Bruce. The Riddle of History.
McNeill, William. Mythhistory and Other Essays. (FYI)
Munz, Peter. The Shapes of Time: A New Look at the Philosophy of History.
Popper, Karl. R. The Poverty of Historicism. (Before reading this book, also read the article "Meaning of Historicism: by D. Lee and Robert Brek in the American Historical Review, April 1954, vol 59, pp. 568-77. Oral presentation should include both article and book.)
Smith, Bonnie G. The Gender of History: Men, Women, and Historical Practice. (1998)
Tillinghast, P. E. The Specious Past: Historians and Others.
Voltaire, F. The Philosophy of History. (reprint of 1766 edition)
Von Ranke, L. The Theory and Practice of History.
White, Hayden. The Content of the Form: Narrative Discourse and Historical Representation.