Graduate Historiography

Wednesdays 5:30-8:20 p.m.
Instructor: Dr. Richard Byers
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Office Hours: MW 10-12, W 2-4 or by appt.

Overview
Historiography, or the historian’s craft, is an introduction to the history of historical thought from its emergence in the classical world to the present. The course will cover many of the major historiographical schools and ideas that have developed over the last two centuries. Students will study the tools and methods of various historians, how they formulate hypotheses from gathering and selection of evidence, and how different historians write about the same era or subjects. The course is required of all M.A. history graduates.

Goals of the course:
• To learn more about various schools of historical interpretation from the ancient world to the present
• To discover how historians gather information and formulate hypotheses
• To learn how the writing and purposes of history have changed over time
• To discover how historians’ methods, ideas, and products are, at least in part, determined by their own age.

Learning Outcomes:
• Students will be able to identify, classify and describe some major schools of global historiography.
• Students will be able to read a piece of primary or secondary historical writing and be able to analyze the author’s perspective and biases.
• Students will be able to write a paper of their own incorporating knowledge of historical schools of thought to analyze the historiography of a topic of their choice.
• Students will be able to recognize and describe, in written and oral form, how particular historians demonstrate the objective and subjective nature of historical research.

Required Texts (available at Bookstore)
Bloch, The Historian’s Craft, Vintage, 1964
Darnton, The Great Cat Massacre, Basic Books, 2009
Howell and Prevenier, From Reliable Sources: An Introduction to Historical Methods, Cornell, 2001
Gaddis, The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past, Oxford, 2002
Green and Troup (eds.), The Houses of History, Manchester, 1999

**Attendance** – Students are required to attend every class session, and participate. **COME PREPARED TO SPEAK, AND BE CALLED UPON.** Historians might be solitary but they are never silent, and they are never neutral.

**Assessment** -

1. One paper of 10-15 pages that analyzes and assesses a major online primary source repository **(due on December 3)**, worth 20% of your final grade.
2. One annotated and justified bibliography with a minimum of 25 sources that examines a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor **(due on November 19)**, worth 20% of your final grade.
3. Four short papers of 2-5 pages that summarize the week’s required reading/readings **(due at class time the following week)**, each worth 10% of your final grade.
4. Class participation, including leading discussion sections and participating in seminars/workshops, worth 20% of your final grade.

All papers are expected to be typed, double-spaced, with no spelling or grammar errors, and all citations should be correctly noted in a source list or bibliography. For citation guidelines, see the standards outlined in Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations* or those contained in the latest edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*. See [http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian2009.pdf](http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian2009.pdf) for details. Papers that do not conform to these standards will be returned for correction with a twenty percent penalty. **This class will be demanding, and my standards and expectations are high. You are not an undergraduate any more. Do not assume your writing skills are at graduate-level standards.**

**Policies**

1. Students must obtain the required books from the bookstore. Remember that the Bookstore will remove many titles well before the end of the semester.
2. Late papers will incur a penalty of one letter grade for every day they are late. **NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXCUSES.** Papers more than a week late will not be graded, and you will receive a grade of 0.
3. Students must adhere to UNG’s Academic Integrity Code – see the Student Life handbook for details. Make sure all work submitted is your own. This course will utilize the latest plagiarism detection software. **No plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind will be tolerated; students found in violation of any of these regulations will receive a grade of F for the course and will be reported to the Academic Integrity Council.**
4. Please turn off all cell phones during class, or set them to vibrate in the case of an emergency.
5. All readings are required to be completed **PRIOR to class that week** – those who fail to either do the reading or to bring the week’s materials with them to class will face adverse grade consequences.
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
(subject to change)

Week One – Welcome and hand-out of syllabus
- Assignment of discussion section leadership responsibilities

Week Two: Bloch, *The Historian’s Craft*
- Why we’re here

Week Three – REQUIRED READING: Gaddis, *The Landscape of History*
- What Historians Do

Week Four – REQUIRED READING: Howell and Prevenier, *From Reliable Sources: An Introduction to Historical Methods*
- How we do history – historical methods

Week Five - REQUIRED READING: Green and Troup, *The Houses of History*
- What Historians have done (over the last century anyway)

Week Six - REQUIRED READING: Darnton, *The Great Cat Massacre*
- Ways and Means of History

- Nuts and Bolts: Working with Sources

Week Eight – REQUIRED READING: Rolph-Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*
Smial, “In the Grip of Sacred History,” located at http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/110.5/smail.html
John Foot, *Italy’s Divided Memory*, Chapter 1, “Divided Memory: Theory, Methodology, Practice,” on Reserve at LTC.
Torgovnick, “Introduction: Hiding in Plain Sight,” from *The War Complex: World War II in Our Time*, (EBRARY access through LTC)
- History and Memory

Week Nine – What If Scenarios: Contingency and Counterfactuals
REQUIRED READING: McIntyre and Scalmer, “Introduction,” from *Australian History as it Might Have Been* (in Coursepak)
Lienhard, “History and Horseshoe Nails,” located at http://www.uh.edu/engines/epi1541.htm
See also the interesting arguments at

Week Ten – Forum One – Technology in History
REQUIRED READING, Headrick, “Introduction,” from The Tools of Empire, on Reserve in LTC.
Landes, “Introduction,” from The Unbound Prometheus, (E-Book from UNG Library)
Chase, “Introduction,” from Firearms: A Global History to 1700, on Reserve at LTC
“Does Technology Drive History?”, located at
http://www4.ncsu.edu/unity/users/p/pwhmds/techhist.html
“Marx on Science, Religion, Historical Method,” located at
Evgeny Morozov, The Net Delusion: The Dark Side of Internet Freedom, Introduction and Ch. 10, on Reserve in LTC.

Week Eleven – Forum Two – Power and Ideology in History
REQUIRED READING
Ando, Imperial Ideology and Provincial Loyalty in the Roman Empire, Part 1, 19-48, “Ideology in the Roman Empire” (E-book accessible though Netlibrary/LTC)
http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/methods/studying_power.html
“Jon Meacham, “The Story of Power,” located at
Nikolas Rose, “Power and Subjectivity: Critical History and Psychology,” located at
http://www.jstor.org/stable/4288433 (Read this BEFORE you read the Rabinow readings below)
Selected Readings from Rabinow (ed.), The Foucault Reader, on Reserve in LTC. Closely read sections
“Truth and Power,” and “What is an Author?”

Week Twelve -- Forum Three – Gender in History
REQUIRED READING, Joan Scott, Gender and the Politics of History, Chapters 1, 2 and 10 (E-Book from UNG Library)
AHR Forum, “Revisiting ‘Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis,’” American Historical Review
Kathleen Canning, “Chapter 1: Gender History: Meanings, Methods, and Metanarratives,” from Gender History in practice: Historical Perspectives on Bodies, Class, and Citizenship, on Reserve in LTC.
Alice Kessler-Harris, “What is Gender History Now?” from Cannadine (ed.) What is History Now?, on Reserve in LTC.

Issue 8 – Gender, Part of the History in Focus website, constructed by the Institute of Historical Research, located at
http://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/index.html.

Week Thirteen - Forum Four – Convergences: Digital History/Literature and History
REQUIRED READING, “Interchange: The Promise of Digital History,” Journal of American History 95 (2)
(Sept. 2008): 452-491 (Galileo) located at
http://www.journalofamericanhistory.org/issues/952/interchange/
within History on Film/Film on History, “Mainstream Drama,” on Reserve at LTC.

Week Fourteen - REQUIRED READING, None
- NO CLASS – WORK ON PRIMARY SOURCE ASSIGNMENTS

Week Fifteen – Thanksgiving Hooray!!

Week Sixteen- REQUIRED READING, None
FINAL ASSIGNMENTS DUE IN CLASS DECEMBER 3