HST 600
Historiography

This course asks you to think about a range of questions related to the discipline of history: What is history? How have historians approached the study of the past? How and why has the approach to the study of history changed?

Our goal will be to understand the dynamic nature of scholarship within (and outside) the discipline.

We will spend most of the semester examining several of the most influential approaches to the writing of history but will bookend our examination by beginning and ending with the reflections of three historians on the historical discipline.

At the end of the course, you will have a chance to explore and reflect on the historiography of a field in which you are particularly interested and the ways in which the changes we have explored throughout the course influenced the historiography of the field you have chosen to examine.

Finally, throughout the course, you will be asked to practice the professional skills of a historian by participating actively as an audience member in several guest lectures and workshops.
ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Active Participation in Discussion (30%)
2. Quizzes and Questions as needed (10%)
3. Short paper (4-5 pages) (15%)
   a. Drawing on the readings from four of the “Approach” units, reflect on how the readings and possibly class discussions have or have not changed/added to/fleshed out your understanding of history. I will be looking for demonstrated mastery and understanding of historiography as well as some evidence of rethinking (or at least examining) your assumptions. This paper can and probably should be written in the first person.
4. Professional Attendance (15%)
   You will need to attend four events in which a historian is either speaking or running a workshop. For each of these events, you will need to submit a short type-written account. Two of your submissions should link in some fashion the talk and our course material. Two should summarize a question you asked and the speaker’s response.
   If your schedule is such that you cannot attend four professional events, let me know at the beginning of the semester so we have time to make other arrangements. **If you would like to attend an event other than one of the ones listed in the syllabus, make sure that you run your choice by me.**
5. Final Paper (10 – 15 pages) (30%)
   The major assignment for this class consists of two parts. The first asks you to produce a 10-15-page historiographical essay on a historical topic of your choice. The topic should be broad enough so that you are reading works (10-15) that are important not only to scholars who specialize in your topic but also those who are in the larger field. It is fine and indeed a good idea to link your historiographical essay to your MA thesis, your dissertation, one of your Plan B papers, etc. But whereas those assignments would probably ask you to produce a narrow and exhaustive historiography, I am asking you to produce a broad historiography consisting only of the most significant works. You should feel free and you are indeed encouraged to run your bibliography for this assignment by a faculty member who specializes in your topic.
   The second part of the assignment asks you to set your historiography within a broader historiographical context, namely the changing approaches to history that are the subject of this course. You should identify the ways in which broader historiographical currents have and, just as importantly, have not influenced the historiography of your topic and then, of course, try to explain why.
   We will meet individually to discuss your topic.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE DUE</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WHAT IS HISTORY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>The Historiographical Approach</td>
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<td>Watch Video: What Is Historiography?</td>
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<td>Read (in the following order)</td>
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<td>2. E. H. Carr, <em>What is History?</em></td>
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<td><strong>APPROACHES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td><em>Annales School: Total History and the Longue Durée</em></td>
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<td>Read (in the following order):</td>
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<td>1. Green and Troup, 106-114</td>
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<td>Sign up for Individual Meetings</td>
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<td>September 7</td>
<td>Graduate Student Meeting</td>
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<td>September 7</td>
<td>Individual Meetings</td>
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<td>September 12</td>
<td>Marxism and History</td>
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<td>Read in the following order:</td>
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<td>1. Rius, <em>Marx for Beginners</em>, 66-143</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Green and Troup, Chapter 3</td>
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<td>5. <a href="http://www-personal.umich.edu/~hfox/gramsci.html">http://www-personal.umich.edu/~hfox/gramsci.html</a></td>
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| September 19 | **Microhistory**  
Read in the following order: |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*  
2. Robert Darnton, “Workers Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre” in Darnton, *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French History*  
3. Clifford Geertz, “Thick Description: Toward an Interpretative Theory of Culture”  
4. Green and Troup, Chapter 8 |
| September 21 | **Elizabeth Hinton** (Harvard)  
Brown Bag Workshop: “Second Chances: Life after Prison” (Location and Time TBA)  
| September 21 | **Annotated Bibliography for the historical topic you will be exploring for your final historiographical essay. For this assignment, list the books in chronological order by publication date rather than alphabetical order by author’s last name. The bibliography for the final paper should, of course, be in alphabetical order.** |
| September 26 | **Foucault**  
Watch:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6a2dLVx8THA  
Read (in any order):  
1. Green and Troup, Chapter  
2. Foucault, Michel. *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison*  
3. Foucault Reading Guide:  
https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/currentstudents/undergraduate/modules/fulllist/second/en229/marxfctintros_foucault_reader.pdf?_hstc=162494947.c79428e34594a9ecb93ea14ebc4d17ca.1382109325061.1383646664633.1383661049186.12&__hssc=162494947.13.1383661049186&__hsfp=580104783 |
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<tr>
<th>October 3</th>
<th>Gender and History READ IN THIS ORDER</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sonya Rose, <em>What is Gender History</em></td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Kathleen Cannning, <em>Gender History in Practice</em>, Chapters 2 &amp; 3</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Green and Troup, Chapter 10</td>
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<th>October 4</th>
<th>Edward Baptist (Cornell University), Blackburn Lecture: 7:30 Park Library</th>
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<tr>
<th>October 5</th>
<th>Edward Baptist (Cornell University), Brown Bag Workshop 10:00 am</th>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Individual Meetings to discuss topic for the final historiographical essay. Come to meeting with some ideas.</td>
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<th>October 10</th>
<th>Space</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Habermas, <em>The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere</em>, 1-88</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Miles Ogborn, <em>Spaces of Modernity: London’s Geographies 1680-1780</em>, Chapters 1, 2, 3</td>
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<tr>
<th>October 17</th>
<th>NO CLASS</th>
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<td>Due:</td>
<td>Paper on four of the historical approaches we have examined.</td>
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<th>October 24</th>
<th>Nations and Borderlands</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Benedict Anderson, <em>Imagined Communities</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<td>November 2</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
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<td>November 11</td>
<td>First draft of the historiographical essay due on Blackboard. This draft is focused on the historiography of your topic.</td>
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<td>November 14</td>
<td>Read:</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>WHAT IS HISTORY REVISITED</td>
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<td>November 28</td>
<td>A Historian's Journey</td>
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<td>November 30</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
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<td>December 5</td>
<td>Power and the Past</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>Final Draft (and for some of you Final Paper) Due on Blackboard. This draft includes a discussion of the ways in which the larger historiographical trends we have been examining all semester have influenced the historiography on your topic.</td>
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<td>December 12</td>
<td>Come to Class having read all papers in your group on Blackboard.</td>
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<td>Discuss Final Papers</td>
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Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*
Divide into groups for Historiographical Essay peer review