

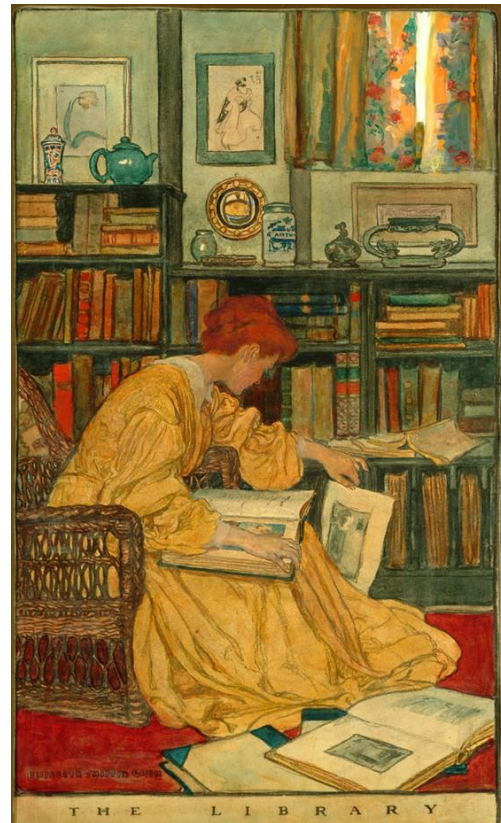
Dr. K. Donohue
234 Powers Hall
989-774-3374 (office)
989-832-3992 (home)
donoh1k@cmich.edu

Spring 2017
Office Hours: T, Th 11:00-12:00
or by appointment

Graduate Colloquium in American History, 1865-Present HST 603

This class will provide you with an opportunity to work on several of the skills required of professional historians. We will read a number of works that are currently capturing the imagination of the historical scholarly community, many of them multiple prizewinners. We will analyze these books during our class discussions, addressing among other things historical content, historiographical context, historical arguments, methodology, and use of evidence. These discussions are a critical component of this class. You cannot pass this class without being an active participant in them.

The papers that you will write will give you the opportunity to refine your ability to think imaginatively about history. Specifically, I will ask you to treat the books we read in the way that you might if you were looking for a thesis or dissertation topic. In these papers, your challenge will be to ask scholarly questions and to make connections among historical works and/or historical moments. One way to think about these papers is as mini-proposals. When scholars write grant proposals, they come up with a historical question and then make a case for researching this question by placing it in its historical and historiographical context. Another approach is to identify and then explore a theme that links a few of our readings.



Finally, you will work on your professional skills by attending the International Graduate Historical Studies Conference, which will take place on the CMU campus on March 31 and April 1, 2017 as well as the Blackburn Lecture on April 21, also at CMU. At the conference, you will be required to attend two sessions, ask a question at each session and then write up both your question and the answer you received. In so doing, you will be working on your ability to ask historical questions (a version of the skill you are working on in your papers) and you will also be participating in scholarly discourse, an essential part of being a professional historian.

Grading:

Participation (including 2-3 prepared questions, which you will hand in)*	40%
Quizzes**	10%
Conference and Blackburn Attendance/ Conference Write-Up***	10%
Papers (three 4-6 page papers)****	30%
Final Proposal	10%

*You will need to come up with a 2-3 typed questions on each of the readings which you will hand in during class. These should focus on historical or historiographical themes, connections with other books, etc. They should be sparked by genuine curiosity. You should not have a right or wrong answer in mind although you can certainly already be leaning toward one answer or another. The purpose of these questions is to spark discussion rather than to yield a right or wrong answer.

**You must pass the quiz to get credit for the discussion.

*** If you have any conflicts for either the IGHS conference or the Blackburn Lecture, you will need to let me know **in the first week** of class so we can come up with an alternative assignment.

****You may write more than three papers. I will use your three highest grades to determine your paper grade

SCHEDULE	
January 11	Martha Hodes <i>Mourning Lincoln</i> Lincoln Prize, Avery O. Craven Award, Longlist finalist for National Book Award
January 18	Hannah Rosen, <i>Terror in the Heart of Freedom: Citizenship, Sexual Violence, and the Meaning of Race in the Postemancipation</i> Berkshire First Book Prize, Willie Lee Rose Prize, Avery O. Craven Award
January 25	Jonathan Levy, <i>Freaks of Fortune: The Emerging World of Capitalism and Risk in America</i> William Nelson Cromwell Book Prize, Avery O. Craven Award, Ellis W. Hawley Prize, Frederick Jackson Turner Award
February 1	Linda Nash, <i>Inescapable Ecologies: A History of Environment, Disease, and Knowledge</i> John Dunning Prize
February 8	No Class

February 15	Ari Kelman, <i>A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling over the Memory of Sand Creek</i> Bancroft Prize, Avery O. Craven Award, Tom Watson Brown Book Award, Robert M. Utley Award
February 22	Martha A. Sandweiss, <i>Passing Strange: A Gilded Age Tale of Love and Deception Across the Color Line</i> Finalist, National Book Critics Circle Award
March 1	Linda Gordon, <i>The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction</i> Bancroft Prize, Albert J. Beveridge Award, Willa Cather Literary Award
March 8	No Class
March 15	Christopher Capozzola, <i>Uncle Sam Wants You: World War I and the Making of the Modern American Citizen</i> Lois P. Rudnick Prize
March 22	Benjamin Looker, <i>A Nation of Neighborhoods: Imagining Cities, Communities, and Democracy in Postwar America</i> John Hope Franklin Prize, Lawrence Levine Prize, Kenneth Jackson Award
March 29	Mark Brilliant, <i>The Color of America Has Changed: How Racial Diversity Shaped Civil Rights Reform in California, 1941–1978</i> Cromwell Book Prize, Frederick Jackson Turner Award (Honorable Mention)
Friday, March 31 & April 1	IGHS Conference You will need to attend two sessions, ask a question at each, write up your question and the answer you received, and turn it in.
April 5	Darren Dochuk, <i>From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plain-Folk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism</i> Allan Nevins Prize, John J. Dunning Prize, Ellis Hawley Prize
April 12	Daniel Martinez HoSang, <i>Racial Propositions: Ballot Initiatives and the Making of Postwar California</i> James Rawley Prize, John Hope Franklin (Honorable Mention) Oliver Cromwell Cox (Honorable Mention)
April 19	Elizabeth and Ken Fones-Wolfe, <i>Struggle for the Soul of the Postwar South: White Evangelical Protestants and Operation Dixie</i> David Montgomery Award
Friday, April 21	BLACKBURN LECTURE Ari Kelman, “For Liberty and Empire: Remembering Sand Creek, Rethinking the Civil War”

April 26	Brenda Stevenson, <i>The Contested Murder of Latasha Harlins: Justice, Gender, and the Origins of the LA Riots</i> James A. Rawley Prize
Sunday, April 30	Proposal Due
May 3	Peer Review of Proposals