

HIS 530-001 Historiography

Fall 2018

Thursday 6-8:30 pm, F 475

Contact Information:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the nature and development of the discipline of history and how historians have understood and interpreted historical events. The course will concentrate on historiography, theoretical questions, and methodological debates. Reading and writing assignments will be used to focus on topics such as definitions of history, methods of assessing the past, and recent approaches to writing history. More specifically, the course will develop an understanding of the global approaches to history, and also examine the importance of race, class, gender, colonialism and culture in formulating historical interpretation. Over the course of the semester the seminar will provide you a more complete understanding of the various interpretations and methodological approaches to the writing of history.

READINGS

George Iggers, Q Edward Wang, and Supriya Mukherjee, *A Global History of Modern Historiography*.

Lynn Hunt, *Writing History in the Global Era*

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

Shahid Amin, *Event, Metaphor, Memory*

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*

Keith Jenkins, *Rethinking History*

Geoff Eley, *A Crooked Line: From Cultural History to the History of Society*

Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*

Amitav Ghosh: *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance: I consider regular attendance and active participation in this class, as in all graduate seminars, to be mandatory. Serious emergency would be the only reason for an absence from class or for coming to class not fully prepared.

Participation: While in-class discussion is an integral part of this class, given the small size of the class, the onus on the students to make meaningful contribution is even greater. Thoughtful contributions to the discussion and your active and willing participation are what the success of the seminar will depend on. This and attendance together will be 10% of the grade for the class.

Assignments:

Reports: Students will write a three-page (double-spaced) report on 5 of the main readings from Weeks 3 to 14. The report should provide a brief summary or overview of the reading; it should also raise ONE substantive question relating to the theme of that week. Be prepared to elaborate on the report orally in class.

- This will count for 40% of the grade for the class. (Students are welcome to write more than 5 reports so that you can select the best FIVE to count towards your grade).
- Reviews are due in class – in NO CASE will reviews be accepted after the discussion of the material in class.

Student-led Discussion: Each student will lead a class discussion on a particular week. Student leading the discussion should come with questions that speak to the theme of the week, and should also try to relate the assigned reading to the other readings for the class. This will be 10% of your grade.

Final Paper: The Final Paper for this class will be a substantial review of about 10-12 pages that will focus on a particular historiographical issue. You will be able frame the paper in a manner that speaks to one of the particular themes and methodology discussed in the seminar.

- Students will submit a draft of their papers during Weeks 12. This will be 10% of the grade.
- Final paper will be due on December 12. This will be 30% of the grade.

Attendance and Class Participation:	10%
Reports: (5 x 8%)	40%
Student Discussion:	10%
Paper Draft:	10%
Final Paper:	30%

ASSESSMENT

Program Learning Outcomes:

The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning an M.A. degree in History:

- (1) The student will analyze the main historiographical trends and issues associated with an event or period.
- (2) The student will engage in historical research and analysis.

This course will focus on PLO 1.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The more specific outcomes for this particular course are as follows:

- (1) The student will explain the various methodologies and approaches to studying the past.
- (2) The student will be able to trace the various schools of historical thought discusses in class.
- (3) The student will be able to explain the role and value of different historical perspectives, including various theoretical models of understanding the past.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Week 1

August 30

Course Introduction

- ❖ Akira Kurosawa's *Rashomon* (88 mins) – Watch and Discuss

Week 2

September 6

What is History?

- ❖ George Iggers, Q Edward Wang, and Supriya Mukherjee, *A Global History of Modern Historiography*. Chapter 1-5.

Week 3

September 13

Going Global

- ❖ Lynn Hunt, *Writing History in the Global Era*

Week 4

September 20

Powers, Past and Silence

- ❖ Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*

Week 5

September 27

Nation and Nationalism

- ❖ Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

Week 6

October 4

History and Memory

- ❖ Shahid Amin, *Event, Metaphor, Memory*
- ❖ Alon Confino, "Collective Memory and Cultural History: Problems of Method," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 102, No. 5 (Dec., 1997), pp. 1386-1403

Week 7

October 11

Gender History

- ❖ Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis" *American Historical Review*, Vol. 91, No. 5. (1986), pp. 1053-1075.
- ❖ Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses" *Feminist Review*, No. 30 (Autum, 1988), 61-88

- ❖ Saba Mahmood, "Feminist Theory, Embodiment, and the Docile Agent: Some Reflections on the Egyptian Islamic Revival" *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (May 2001), 202-236
- ❖ Mrinalini Sinha, "A Global Perspective on Gender: What's South Asia Got to Do with It?" in *South Asian Feminisms*. Ania Loomba and Ritty Lukose eds. (Durham: Duke University Press, 2012), 356-74.

Week 8
October 18

Microhistory: Small is Beautiful?

- ❖ Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*
- ❖ Natalie Zemon Davis, "Decentering History: Local Stories and Cultural Crossings in a Global World," *History and Theory* 50 (May 2011), 188-202.

Week 9
October 25

A Historian's Journey

- ❖ Geoff Eley, *A Crooked Line*

Week 10
November 1

Social History

- ❖ E.P. Thompson, "Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism." *Past & Present*, No. 38 (Dec., 1967), pp. 56-97.
- ❖ E.P. Thompson, "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century." *Past & Present*, No. 50 (Feb., 1971), 76-136.
- ❖ Mark M. Smith, "Making Sense of Social History," *Journal of Social History*, Fall 2003, 165-186.

Week 11
November 8

Postcolonial History

- ❖ Edward Said, "Introduction" in *Orientalism* (1979)
- ❖ Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History: Who Speaks for 'Indian' Pasts?" *Representations*, No. 37 (1992), pp. 1-26.
- ❖ Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak," *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg eds. (Basingstoke: Macmillian, 1988), 271-313.

Week 12
November 15

Facts and History

- ❖ Keith Jenkins, *Rethinking History*
- ❖ George Iggers, Q Edward Wang, and Supriya Mukherjee, *A Global History of Modern Historiography*. Chapter 6-8.

****Paper Draft Due by 5 p.m.****

Week 13
November 22

☺ **Thanksgiving Break** ☺

Week 14
November 29

Alternative Histories

- ❖ Amitav Ghosh, *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*
- ❖ Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The Climate of History: Four Theses," *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (Winter 2009), 197-222.

Week 15
December 6

Revise Paper Draft

Week 16
December 12

FINAL Paper due by 5 p.m.