



History 700: Historiography

Instructor: Prof. Joshua Arthurs

Location: Woodburn 106, TR 1:00-2:15

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Office Hours: G3B Woodburn Hall, TR 11:30-12:30

Course Description:

This course introduces graduate students to major perspectives, problems and debates and in modern historiography. We will consider fundamental epistemological questions regarding history, such as the nature of sources and the question of objectivity; major schools of interpretation, from Marxism to post-colonial theory; and the impact of new methods and technologies upon the historical profession. Students are encouraged to relate course concepts to their own fields of study and research projects.

Readings:

The books listed below are required and available for purchase at the campus bookstore or via Amazon. All other readings, indicated by an asterisk (*), are available for download on the course's eCampus site, which you can access by logging on at ecampus.wvu.edu. I reserve the right to adjust readings according to the direction of the course.

- John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past* (Oxford University Press, 2004).
- Carlo Ginsburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: the Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992)
- Anna Green and Kathleen Troup, *The Houses of History: A Critical Reader in Twentieth-Century, History and Theory* (New York University Press, 1999).
- Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou: the Promised Land of Error* (George Braziller, 2008).
- Peter Novick, *That Noble Dream: the 'Objectivity Question' and the American Historical Profession* (Cambridge University Press, 1988).
- Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (Beacon Press, 1995)

Assignments:

Historiography paper (50%) – Students will write a **15- to 17-page historiography paper** on the subject of their choice. Students are encouraged to focus on a topic relevant to their interests or ongoing research, and must choose 4-6 works of scholarly literature (books and journal articles), each of which represents a different approach or interpretation. In Week VI (Feb. 16/18), students must submit a **three-page proposal and projected short bibliography**, and meet with me individually to discuss their project.

Discussion questions (25%) – By **4 PM every Monday**, students must email me at least **three substantive questions** about the week's reading, ahead of our Tuesday discussion. These can range from questions asking for clarification or explanation of the texts to more critical engagement with key concepts.

Attendance and participation (25%) – Attendance is required; you should also be sure to come to class prepared, with the readings in hand, and ready to contribute in a constructive fashion to our discussion. If you will be missing class due to illness etc., please email me ahead of time.

Course Expectations:

Assignments: The paper must be submitted in **HARD COPY** and stapled – not sent via email. It should be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in 12-point font. Late papers will be deducted half a grade for every day of lateness, beginning at the time at which they are due. No extensions will be given.

Communication: I will often communicate with the class via your WVU email account (MIX). Please be sure to check it regularly. Email is also the best way to contact me. When emailing, please ensure that you are polite and professional. I will work hard to get back to you in a timely manner.

Courtesy during Class: It is disruptive to others to arrive late to class or leave early. Please don't do it. If you know that you will have to leave class early, explain the situation to me beforehand and sit near the door so that you can exit as quietly as possible. Please turn off all cell phones, beepers, or any other wireless device that may make noise during class. I will confiscate your device if it rings in class. You may use laptops in class for taking notes, but if you are using it for email, instant-messaging, or any other activity I will ask you to stop using your computer.

Academic Integrity: Cheating and plagiarism are serious offences, and can result in penalties ranging from F on an assignment to F for the course and further disciplinary action. I take plagiarism very seriously, as it means that you have willfully stolen the thoughts, ideas, and words of others and treated them as your own. Please cite all of your sources! I reserve the right to use anti-plagiarism software in dubious cases. For citations, please use the Chicago Style and footnotes, along with a bibliography page.

Statement of Social Justice: WVU is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

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Schedule:

Week I (Jan. 12/14) – Introduction to Historiography

- *Selections from Herodotus, Livy, Tacitus, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Gregory of Tours, Machiavelli and Leopold Von Ranke.

Week II (Jan. 19/21) – What do Historians Do?

- Gaddis, *The Landscape of History*.
- *Hayden White, “The Burden of History.” *History and Theory* 5.2 (1966), 111-134.

Week III (Jan.26/28) – Objectivity and the Historical Profession

- Green & Troop, *The Houses of History*, 1-11.
- Novick, *That Noble Dream*.

Week IV (Feb. 2/4) – Narrative and Interpretation

- Green & Troop, *The Houses of History*, 204-213.
- *Hayden White, “The Historical Text as Literary Artifact” in *Tropics of Discourse* (1978), 81-100.
- *François Furet, “From Narrative History to Problem-Oriented History” in *In the Workshop of History* (1984), 54-67.
- *Eric Hobsbawm, selections from *The Age of Extremes: a History of the World, 1914-1989*.
- *Dan Diner, “European Counterimages: Problems of Periodization and Historical Memory.” *New German Critique* 53 (1991), 163-174.
- *Charles S. Maier, “Consigning the Twentieth Century to History: Alternative Narratives for the Modern Era.” *American Historical Review* 105.3 (2000), 807-831.

Week V (Feb. 9/11) – Sources: Traces, Silences and Archives

- Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*.
- *Durba Ghosh, “National Narratives and the Politics of Miscegenation” in Antoinette Burton, ed., *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History* (2005), 27-44.
- *Leora Auslander, “Beyond Words” *American Historical Review* 110.4 (2005), 1015-1045.

Week VI (Feb. 16/18) – INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

There is no class this week; however, historiography paper proposals and bibliographies are due by NOON on Tuesday, Feb. 16th in my History Department Mailbox. You must also schedule individual meetings with me for either Thursday, Feb. 18th or Friday, Feb. 19th. A sign-up sheet will be posted on my office door.

Week VII (Feb. 23/25) – Marxism and Historical Materialism

- Green & Troop, *The Houses of History*, 33-43.
- *Selections from *The Marx-Engels Reader*
- *E.P. Thompson, “The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century.” *Past and Present* 50 (1971), 76-136.

Week VIII (Mar. 2/4) – the Annales School

- Green & Troop, *The Houses of History*, 87-109
- Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou*.

Discussion with Dr. Matt Vester

Week IX (March 9/11) – History and the Social Sciences

- Green & Troop, *The Houses of History*, 110-140.
- *Selections from Max Weber.
- *Ian K. Steele, “Exploding Colonial American History: Amerindian, Atlantic, and Global Perspectives.” *Reviews in American History* 26.1 (1998), 70-95.
- *Selections from David Vickers, ed., *A Companion to Colonial America* (2006).

Discussion with Dr. Tyler Boulware

Week X (Mar. 16/18) – Social History

- Green & Troop, *The Houses of History*, 141-150, 230-238.
- Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*.

Discussion with Dr. Brian Luskey

Week XI (Mar. 23/25) – Cultural History and Postmodernism

- Green & Troop, *The Houses of History*, 172-182, 297-307.
- *Clifford Geertz, “Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture” in *The Interpretation of Cultures* (1973), 3-33.
- *Selections from Michel Foucault
- *Robert Darnton, *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History* (1985), 75-104.
- *Alf Lüdtke, “The ‘Honor of Labor’: Industrial Workers and the Power of Symbols under National Socialism” in David Crew, ed., *Nazism and German Society 1933-1945* (1994), 67-109.

SPRING BREAK MARCH 27-APRIL 4

Week XII (Apr. 6/8) – Gender and History

- Green & Troop, *The Houses of History*, 253-276
- *Joan Wallach Scott, “Gender: a Useful Category of Historical Analysis.” *American Historical Review* 91.5 (1986), 1053-1075.

- *Judith M. Bennett, *History Matters: Patriarchy and the Challenge of Feminism* (2006), 6-29.
- *John Tosh, "What Should Historians Do with Masculinity? Reflections on Nineteenth-Century Britain." *History Workshop* 38 (1994), 179-202.
- *Joan Wallach Scott, "Women in *The Making of the English Working Class*" in *Gender and the Politics of History* (1988), 68-90.

Discussion with Dr. Kate Staples

Week XIII (April 13/15) – Postcolonial History

- Green & Troop, *The Houses of History*, 277-296.
- *Selections from Edward Said, *Orientalism* (1978)
- *Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography" in *Selected Subaltern Studies* (1988), 3-32.
- *Selections from Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference* (2000).

Discussion with Dr. Joe Hodge

Week XIV (April 20/22) – History, Memory and Tradition

- *Selections from Maurice Halbwachs, *The Collective Memory*.
- *Pierre Nora, "Between History and Memory: les lieux de mémoire." *Representations* 26 (1989), 7-24.
- *Eric Hobsbawm, "Introduction: Inventing Traditions" in Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds., *The Invention of Tradition* (1983), 1-14.
- *Hugh Trevor-Roper, "The Invention of Tradition: the Highland Tradition of Scotland" in Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds., *The Invention of Tradition*, 1983, 15-42.

NO CLASS ON APRIL 22 – PROFESSOR OUT OF TOWN

Week XV (April 27/29) – History in the Digital Age

- *Roy Rosenzweig, "Scarcity or Abundance? Preserving the Past in a Digital Era." *American Historical Review* 108.3, 735-762.
- *Renée M. Sentilles, "Toiling in the Archives of Cyberspace" in Antoinette Burton, ed., *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History* (2005), 136-156.
- *September 11 Digital Archive* (visit <http://911digitalarchive.org>)

FINAL PAPER DUE IN HISTORY DEPT. MAILBOX AT 12:00 PM ON MAY 6th, 2010.