

## MAPS 31500 – Historical Methods

Wednesdays, 9:30-12:20

Pick 319

This course provides a survey of key methods and concepts in professional historiography. Readings include both methodological works and applied examples of different approaches. Students' assignments will be derived from their ongoing research for their Master's theses.

### Assignments:

- Short weekly assignments (20%)
- In-class participation (20%)
- Midterm historiographical essay, 8-10 pages (20%)
- Final take-home exam (40%)

### Books for purchase at the Seminary Coop:

John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History* (New York: Oxford UP, 2004)

Martha Howell and Walter Prevenier, *From Reliable Sources: an Introduction to Historical Methods* (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2001)

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### Week I: Finding a Problem

Gaddis, *The Landscape of History* (entire)

### Week II: Varieties of History I - Political and Economic

Bodo Nischan, "Calvinism, the Thirty Years' War, and the Beginning of Absolutism in Brandenburg: the Political Thought of John Bergius." *Central European History* 15:3 (1982), 203-223.

William W. Hagen, "Seventeenth-Century Crisis in Brandenburg: the Thirty Years' War, the Destabilization of Serfdom, and the Rise of Absolutism," *American Historical Review* 94:2 (1989), 302-335.

Assignment: Statement of Problem

### Week III: Varieties of History II – Social and Cultural

Hans-Ulrich Thamer, "The Orchestration of the National Community: the Nuremberg Party Rallies of the NSDAP" in Günther Berghaus, ed., *Fascism and Theatre: Comparative Studies on the Aesthetics and Politics of Performance in Europe, 1925-1945* (Providence: Berghahn Books, 1996), 172-190.

Alf Lüdke, "The 'Honor of Labor': Industrial Workers and the Power of Symbols under National Socialism" in David Crew, ed., *Nazism and German Society 1933-1945* (New York: Routledge, 1994), 67-109.

Assignment: Annotated bibliography

#### **Week IV: Historiography as Debate**

Short articles on fascism from Allardyce, Kitchen, Payne, Paxton and Griffin, in Aristotle Kallis, ed., *The Fascism Reader* (New York: Routledge, 2003), 49-63, 82-100, 174-181.

Assignment: Methodological possibilities essay  
Mandatory one-on-one meetings with instructors

#### **Week V: Sources I – University of Chicago**

Visit to Regenstein Library

Howell and Prevenier, *From Reliable Sources*, 1-42.

Assignment: Regenstein scavenger hunt  
Mandatory one-on-one meetings with instructors

#### **Week VI: Sources II – Chicago resources**

Visit to Center for Research Libraries

Assignment: Midterm historiography essay  
Visit to the National Archives – Great Lakes Region on Thurs, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:30

#### **Week VII: Document analysis**

Howell and Prevenier, *From Reliable Sources*, 43-87.

Assignment: Chicago-area scavenger hunt

#### **Week VIII: Material Culture and Non-Textual Sources**

Leora Auslander, “Beyond Words.” *American Historical Review* 110:4 (2005), 1015-1045.

Lisa Jardine, *Worldly Goods: a New History of the Renaissance* (New York: Norton, 1996), 3-34.

Assignment: Show-and-tell

#### **Week IX: Periodization and Interpretation**

Eric Hobsbawm, “The Century: A Bird’s Eye View” in *The Age of Extremes: a History of the World, 1914-1991* (New York: Vintage Books, 1996) 1-17.

Dan Diner, “European Counterimages: Problems of Periodization and Historical Memory.” *New German Critique* 53, 163-174.

Charles Maier, "Consigning the Twentieth Century to History: Alternative Narratives for the Modern Era." *American Historical Review* 105:3 (2000), 807-831.

Howell and Prevenier, *From Reliable Sources*, 88-150.

Assignment: Source essay

### **Week X: the Scholarly Apparatus**

Gertrude Himmelfarb, "Where Have All the Footnotes Gone?" in *On Looking Into the Abyss: Untimely Thoughts on Culture and Society* (New York: Vintage Books, 1995), 122-130.

Anthony Grafton, *The Footnote: a Curious History* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997), 1-33.

Assignment: Periodization essay

**Final exam due on Weds, 3/15 at 12:00**