

History 500 (Fall 2010)
Graduate Historiography Seminar

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Course Content and Format: This course focuses on selected issues in the related fields of historical theory, the history of historiography, and the philosophy of history, as well as on general conceptual and methodological approaches to history. During most of the term, we will read and discuss one significant book or the equivalent each week. Weekly discussions will normally be initiated and given particular focus through oral presentations made by individual students. The various books and articles under discussion have been chosen both as specific contributions to scholarship and as vehicles for the exploration of broader issues and trends. Students are invited to pursue their own particular interests related to this course in a research essay due at the end of term. This essay may relate to the topic of their thesis or dissertation. The final weeks of the course will be devoted to oral presentations on the research essay.

Forms of Assessment

Essay (due 6 December)	50%
Weekly analysis / assessment (300-400 words)(x 5)	15%
Oral commentary introducing readings (2 per student)	9% together
Class presentation on essay topic	6%
Class participation	20%

Course Books (available in the bookstore)

F. R. Ankersmit. *Historical Representation*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2001.

Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt & Margaret Jacob. *Telling the Truth About History*. New York: Norton, 1994.

Kelley, Donald M. *Faces of History. Historical Enquiry from Herodotus to Herder*. Yale University Press, 1998.

Tosh, John. *The Pursuit of History*. 5th edition. London: Pearson, 2010.

NOTE: Further readings will be made available in the filing cabinet in the History Department Reading Room (or at another designated place, if construction requires)

Assignments:

1) Essay: Essays are to be 4500 - 6000 words in length (i.e. ca. 15 to 20 pages).

I'm glad to give broad leeway in the choice of a topic, so long as your essay relates clearly to historical theory, current approaches to history, the history of historiography, and/or the philosophy of history. Several kinds of topic most obviously fit the bill:

- (a) An analytical survey of theoretical and/or methodological approaches **either** in a given area of historical writing (e.g. 1970-80s history of the family; the French Revolution as depicted in 1830s &/or 1980s; analyses of the causes of the 1930s Depression; First Nations history, etc.) **or** of a particular historical genre/school/approach (e.g. medieval chronicles, German historicism, Marxism, *Annales* school, women's history, post-colonialism, etc.).
- b) An examination of the historical thought of an individual historian, historical thinker or philosopher of history. You may choose to focus, for example, on an author from antiquity to the present, and from whichever culture particularly interests you.
- c) an analytical treatment of a significant issue in historical thought or writing (e.g. the nature of evidence, the issue of objectivity, the question of progress, advantages and disadvantages of quantitative and sociological approaches, problems of social or ethnocentric distortion, issues related to narrative & narrativization, etc.).

NOTE: Topics chosen for the research essay done for this course may be related to a student's thesis or dissertation topic, but should examine broad theoretical and historiographical issues. If you are not sure about which topic to choose or whether a topic you are interested in is appropriate, *please* don't hesitate to discuss the matter with the instructor.

2) Introductory remarks to weekly readings: Two presentations of 5-7 minutes each will be scheduled for each student. Their aim is to briefly recall the structure and major points of interest in a book or article, and to inaugurate discussion by highlighting important issues and/or suggesting points of critique. **Note** that the aim is NOT to summarise the content exhaustively. **Note too** that each student is responsible for making sure they have made three presentations by the end of term.

3) Written reports/reactions to weekly readings. Feel free to consider a reading as a whole, but also to concentrate on one aspect of a reading or group of readings for focused discussion and/or assessment. Five of these should be done over the course of the term, on readings of your choice.

Deadlines: Essays are due on 6 December. Weekly analyses are normally due after class Tuesday.

Required Statement on Plagiarism: Don't!! Copying the work of another and presenting it as your own is a grave breach of academic standards. Feel free to talk about your work and about ideas related to this course with anyone willing to discuss them. Also, it is permissible to receive feedback from others, within reason, in polishing written work. However, all students are obliged to do their own written assignments and not to present as their own work that has been substantially produced by someone else. Graduate students are expected to meet professional standards of citation and to acknowledge all material that is quoted directly or paraphrased from other sources. Not doing so is liable to incur the penalties stated in the 2008-2009 UVic Calendar, p. 33, including failure in the course and expulsion from the university.

History 500 (S01) Spring 2009
Schedule of Readings [subject to possible revision]

13 September. Introductory Orientations and Discussion

In-class Reading: R.G. Collingwood, "The need for a philosophy of history", chapter 7
in: *An Autobiography* (Oxford University Press, 1939): 77-88.

20 September. Western Historiography from Antiquity to the Romantics

Readings: D.M. Kelley. *Faces of History. Historical Enquiry from Herodotus to Herder.*
F.R. Ankersmit. "Gibbon and Ovid", in: F.R. Ankersmit. *Historical Representation*: 107-122.

27 September. Modern and Contemporary Historiography: An Introductory Overview

Readings: John Tosh. *The Pursuit of History*. 2010.

Jörn Rüsen. "The Horror of Ethnocentrism: Westernization, Cultural Difference, and Strife in Understanding Non-Western Pasts in Historical Studies," in: *History & Theory*, May 2008: 261-269.

4 October. The Nature of History: The Past, Investigation and Writing

Readings: R.G. Collingwood, "Introduction": 1-10 and "Historical Evidence":
249- 283, in: *The Idea of History*. Revised ed. Introduction by Jan Van der
Deussen. (Oxford University Press, 1994).

E.H. Carr. "The Historian and His Facts", ch. 1 in: *What is History?*

[first published, 1961; pages differ per edition, but the text is the same]

Geoffrey Elton. "The Possibility of Historical Truth", in: *The Practice of History*.
(Fontana, 1969): 70-113.

D.C Watt. "What is History?" in: *The Learning of History* (Routledge): 41-62.

Hayden White, 'Introduction', *Metahistory: The Historical Imagination in
19th- Century Europe*, (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973): 1-42.

Hayden White. "The Politics of Historical Interpretation: Discipline and
Desublimation", in: *The Content of the Form. Narrative Discourse and
Historical Representation*. (Johns Hopkins University Press), 1987: 58-82.

F.R. Ankersmit. "The Linguistic Turn: Literary Theory and Historical Theory", ch. 2 in:
Ankersmit, *Historical Representation*: 29-74.

11 October. THANKSGIVING DAY

18 October. Approaching Structural Continuities and Change: *Annales*, Marxism and Post(?)
Structuralism

Readings: Fernand Braudel, 'History and the Social Sciences: *la longue durée*,' in: *On
History* (Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1980): 25-62.

George Huppert. "The Annales Experiment", in: Michael Bentley (ed). *Companion to
Historiography*. (Routledge, 1997): 873-889.

S.H. Rigby. "Marxist Historiography", in: Michael Bentley (ed). *Companion to
Historiography*. (London: Routledge, 1997): 889-928.

Edward P. Thompson, 'Preface' and 'Exploitation', in *The Making of the English
Working Class* (Penguin, 1968): 9-18 and 207-232.

E.P. Thompson. [Interview], in: H. Abelove et al (eds). *Visions of History* (Pantheon,
1983): 3-25.

Michel Foucault. "The Gentle Way of Punishment", in: *Discipline and Punishment*
(Vintage, 1995): 104-134.

18 October CONTINUED on next page

READINGS for 18 October: CONTINUED

Michel Foucault, 'Truth and Power' [1977 interview] in: *Power/Knowledge, Selected Interviews and Other Writings* (Pantheon, 1980): 109-34.

Thomas Flynn. "Foucault's Mapping of History", in: G. Gutting (ed). *The Cambridge Companion to Foucault*. (Cambridge University Press, 1994), 28-46.

Peter Spierenburg on "Punishment, Power and History: Foucault and Elias" in: *Social Science History*, vol. 28, no. 4 ((Winter 2004), 607-636.

Eric W. Sager. "Employment Contracts in Merchant Shipping. An Argument for Social Science History", in F. Iacovetta & W. Mitchison (eds). *On the Case. Explorations in Social History*. (University of Toronto Press, 1998), 49-64.

25 October. Women's History

Bonnie G Smith. "The Practices of Scientific History." Chapt. 4, *The Gender of History: Men, Women, and Historical Practice*, Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2000.

Catherine Hall, "Feminism and Feminist History", *White, Male and Middle Class* (Routledge, 1992): 1-40.

Joan Wallach Scott. "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis", in: Joan W. Scott (ed), *Feminism and History* (Oxford University Press, 1996): 152-180.

Joan Hoff, "Gender as a post-modern category of paralysis", in: *Women's Studies International Forum*, 17 (July-August 1994): 443-47.

Najmabadi, Afsaneh. Beyond the Americas: Are Gender and Sexuality Useful Categories of Historical Analysis? *Journal of Women's History* 18, no. 1 (2006): 11-21.

Carolyn J. Dean. "Redefining Historical Identities: Sexuality, Gender, and the Self," in: Lloyd Kramer & Sarah Maza (eds). *A Companion to Historical Thought*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2006: 357-71.

Joy Parr, "Gender History and Historical Practice", in: *Canadian Historical Review*, vol. 76, 3 (Sept. 1995): 355-76.

1 November. History and the American Culture Wars.

Readings: Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt, Margaret Jacobs. *Telling the Truth About History*. and EITHER Jon Wiener. "The Alger Hiss Case, The Archives and the Allen Weinstein," in: *Historians in Trouble. Plagiarism, Fraud and the Ivory Tower*. New York: New Press, 2005: 31-57.

OR Peter C. Herman. "Introduction: Resistance to Historicizing Theory," in: *Historicizing Theory*. SUNY Press, 2004: 1-16

8 November. Narrative, Representation and the Linguistic Turn Once Again

Readings: F. R. Ankersmit. *Historical Representation*. Selected chapters.

16 November. TOPIC TBD and the first 3 Project Presentations

23 November. 6 Project Presentations

30 November. 6 Project Presentations