

## Department of International History

Academic year 2020 - 2021

### Historiography: A Critical Introduction

HI080 – Fall - 6 ECTS – Room P3-506

Monday 16:15-18:00

### Course Description

This course is designed as a guided tour through the discipline of history via a sampling of influential and/or innovative historiographical interventions since 1945. The course will focus on a series of key texts with divergent methodologies, from across time-periods, geographical foci, and subject matter. Together the class will engage in critical reading and analysis as we explore the kinds of questions that historians ask and the methods they use to answer them. The goal is both to broaden the students' general historical education and also to help them narrow in on the methods most relevant to their own research.

### > PROFESSOR

Carolyn Bilotf  
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### > ASSISTANT

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## Syllabus

### Grading Scheme

- Weekly Writing Assignments/Participation 25%
- Final Paper 50% (12-15 pages)
- Peer Review 25%

### Explanation of Assignments

- **Reading Responses**

Each week via Moodle you will be expected to submit a short response to the weekly readings, with a special focus on the methods/questions raised by the themes for the week.

- **Final Paper**

For your final paper you will write a classic historiographical review essay based on any one of the group of readings covered in class. Papers may be submitted in either French or English. Also you will be handing in your paper in “stages,” to be explained in class.

## Reading Schedule

- **21/9 Welcome! Introductory Discussion, “the Labor and Pleasure of the Historian’s Craft”**
- **28/9 History as a Craft**
  - Marc Bloch, *The Historian's Craft: Reflections on the Nature and Uses of History and the Techniques and Methods of Those Who Write It* (New York : Vintage, 1954)
- **5/10 History as Mode of Writing**
  - Michel De Certeau, *The Writing of History* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1992) Intro, Part 1 and 2.
- **12/10 Les Annales**
  - Jacques Revel, “The Paradigm of the Annales” in Jacques Revel and Lynn Hunt, *Histories: French Constructions of the Past* (New York: the New Press, 1995), 471-475
  - Fernand Braudel, “History and the Social Sciences: The Longue Durée” in *Histories, French Constructions of the Past*, 115-145
- **Further Reading**
  - Philippe Burrin, *France Under the Germans / La France à l'heure allemande* (New York: New Press 1997) (chapter on les Annales et la collaboration).
  - Andre Burguiere, *The Annales School: An Intellectual History* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009).
  - Marc Bloch, *The Royal Touch: Monarchy and Miracles in France and England* (New York: Dorset Press, 1990)
  - Fernand Braudel, *Civilization and Capitalism*, Vol. I, *The Structures of Everyday Life* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1992)
- **19/10 Historical Microcosms**
  - Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth Century Miller* (Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1992)
- **26/10 Guest Lecture Damian Clavel**  
**Further Reading**
  - Alain Corbin, *The Life of an Unknown: The Rediscovered World of a Clog Maker in Nineteenth-Century France* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001).
  - Francesca Trivellato, « Is There a Future for Italian Microhistory in the Age of Global History? » in *California Italian Studies*, 1 (2), 2011 found <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0z94n9hq>
- **2/11 Macrocosms:**
  - Michael Geyer and Charles Bright, “World History in a Global Age” *The American Historical Review*, Volume 100, Issue. 4 (Oct., 1995), 1034-1060.

- Andre Gunder Frank and Barry K Gills « The Five Thousand Year World System: An Interdisciplinary Introduction » *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations* Vol. 18, No. 1, World-Systems Analysis (1992), pp. 1-79

### **Further Reading**

- Samuel Moyn and Andrew Sartori, eds., *Global Intellectual History* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2013).
- Mazlish, Bruce. "Comparing Global History to World History." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 28, no. 3(1998): 385-95.
- **9/11 History And Memory (East and West)**
  - Paul Cohen, *History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience, and Myth* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997) Part I and Part III
  - Pierre Nora, "Between History and Memory: Les Lieux de Memoire" in *Histories: French Constructions of the Past*, 631-643

### **Further Reading**

- Takashi Yoshida, *The Making of the 'Rape of the Nanking': History and Memory in Japan, China and the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).
- Wolfgang Shivelbusch, *The Culture of Defeat: On National Trauma, Mourning and Recovery* (New York: Metropolitan Books, 2003).
- **16/11 Guest Lecture**
- **23/11 Paper Topic and Bibliography Due**
- **30/11 Ideas and Culture**
  - Jacques le Goff, "Mentalities: A History of Ambiguities" in *Histories, French Constructions of the Past*, 241-246.
  - Alain Corbin, *A History of Silence: From the Renaissance to the Present Day* (New York: Polity, 2018), Selections TBA

### **Further Reading**

- Reinhart Koselleck, *The Practice of Conceptual History: Timing History, Spacing Concepts* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2002)
- Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture* (New York: Vintage Books 2012)
- Michel Foucault « *The Archeology of Knowledge* » sélections found here : [https://monoskop.org/images/9/90/Foucault\\_Michel\\_Archaeology\\_of\\_Knowledge.pdf](https://monoskop.org/images/9/90/Foucault_Michel_Archaeology_of_Knowledge.pdf)
- **7/12 History at the Geographical and Theoretical Margins**
  - Ranajit Guha, *History at the Limit of World History*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003)
  - Hayden White « The Question of Narrative in Contemporary Historical Theory » *History and Theory* Vol. 23, No. 1 (Feb., 1984), pp. 1-33 (33 pages)

### **Further Reading**

- Bernard Cohn, *Colonialism and Its forms of Knowledge: The British in India* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996).
- Lisa Lowe, *The Intimacies of Four Continents* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2015).
- Timothy Mitchell, *Colonising Egypt* (Berkeley: University of California Press).
- Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Habitations of Modernity: Essays in the Wake of Subaltern Studies* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002).
- Ranajit Guha, "The Prose of Counterinsurgency," found [http://abahlali.org/files/Guha\\_ProseOfCounterInsurgency.pdf](http://abahlali.org/files/Guha_ProseOfCounterInsurgency.pdf)
- Laura Ann Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).
- Joan W. Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 91, No. 5 (Dec., 1986), pp. 1053-1075.
- Gyan Prakash, *Subaltern Studies as Postcolonial Criticism*, *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 99, No. 5 (Dec., 1994), pp. 1475-1490

- **14/12 Writing Day**
- **21/12 Exchange Rough Drafts with your Peer Review Partner (cc Professor Biltoft)**
- **Final Paper Due January 8**