

HIS 3942, sec. 8475: **The History Practicum: The History of Race**
M-W-F period 5 (11.45-12.35)
Keene-Flint 119

Professor Mitchell Hart
Email: hartm@ufl.edu
Office: Keene-Flint 018
Phone: 273-3361
Office hours: Tuesdays and thursdays, 11.30-12.30

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Cacey Farnsworth, Department of History
Email: cfarnswo@ufl.edu

Introduction and Objectives of Course

History, as a philosopher once wrote, is both the events of the past and the stories we tell about them. This class is intended to introduce you to how those stories get told, or more to the point, how those stories get made. We will do this by looking at aspects of the history of race, beginning in the ancient world and the moving through the major epochs or periods of European history (with occasional forays into the United States).

The writing of history involves both the recovery of the past through research and reading, and the reconstruction of that past through critical thinking and writing. In other words, history is a product of discovery but also active intervention on the part of the working historian.

In this course we will explore the basic building blocks of historical inquiry with the aim of providing you with the requisite tools to succeed in the history major. In the process we will address fundamental questions: What is history? Is it everything in the past? How do historians decide what is significant and what is not? What is a historical fact? What is historical evidence? What is a valid historical interpretation? And how do all of these, and more, become a historical narrative, the story we tell about the past? And we will discuss more practical questions, such as how to choose a viable topic of study, how to formulate a successful research project, how to do research, and how to go about turning that into a successful essay.

Organization of the Course

The course is divided into a lecture and discussion component. Classes meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Mondays and Wednesdays will be devoted to lectures on the history of race, and Fridays will be devoted to discussions of the mechanics of historiography.

Course Requirements:

Attendance is mandatory. You may miss one lecture session and one precept session without negative consequence to your final grade. After that, every missed session will result in the lowering of your grade by a half grade (i.e., a B becomes a B-, a C+ becomes a C, etc.).

You must arrive to class on time. Anyone arriving more than ten minutes late will not be allowed to remain in the class that day, and this will be counted as an official absence.

Class participation is required. One of the best ways to insure successful class participation is to prepare beforehand by doing the required readings and coming to class prepared to engage with the material and with your fellow students.

Like any and all classes at the University, the assumption in this one is that you and those around you are here to learn. For this to occur, students must respect one another. Disagreement and debate are healthy, but please be civil during class discussions.

Assignments: There are 7 precept assignments, two midterms, and a bibliographic project. These assignments will be discussed in class in greater detail. They will be posted as well on CANVAS.

Texts

Required: Mary Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 7th edition (Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2007)

Required: George Fredrickson, *Racism: A Short History*

There are also required articles that are pdf files. These are posted on CANVAS, which you can access through the University's website.

Optional (but very helpful): Patrick Rael, *Reading, Writing, and Researching for History: A Guide for College Students* (Brunswick, ME: Bowdoin College, 2004).

Grades:

Class participation and attendance 20%

Precept assignments 30%

First in-class exam 15%

Second in-class exam 20%

Research project/annotated bibliography 15%

Grading Scale:

A = 100-92.5	C = 77.4-72.5
A- = 92.4-90	C- = 72.4-70
B+ = 89.9-87.5	D+ = 69.9-67.5
B = 87.4-82.5	D = 67.4-62.5
B- = 82.4-80	D- = 62.4-60
C+ = 79.9-77.5	Fail = Below 60

Relevant University Policies:

"Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation."

Students with disabilities will of course be accommodated, so long as their requests are accompanied by an official letter from UF's Office of Disabilities.

"In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM and is unacceptable." Please review the University's honesty policy in your student handbooks or on the University's webpage.

"Student records are confidential. UF views each student, not their parent(s), as the primary contact for all communication."

Plagiarism

PLEASE NOTE: In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Do not make the mistake of copying someone else's words and passing them off as your own. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM and is unacceptable. **IF YOU ARE CAUGHT PLAGIARIZING YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE CLASS AND MAY BE PROSECUTED FURTHER.** Please review the University's honesty policy and honor code at the University Registrar's website:
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scct/honorcodes/conductcode.php>.

Schedule

Week I

Lecture: What is race, and why study its history?

Reading: Frederickson, pages 1-13.

Discussion: What is history and (why) is it important?
The Historian's Craft

Reading: Rampolla, pp. 1-5

Week II

Lecture: Race in the ancient world?

Reading: Benjamin Isaac, "Proto-Racism in Graeco-Roman Antiquity" (pdf file)

Discussion: How to Succeed in the History Major

Reading: Rampolla, pp. 98-105

Week III

Lecture: Race in the Middle Ages?

Reading: Robert Bartlett, "Medieval and Modern Concepts of Race and Ethnicity" (pdf file)

Discussion: What is a historical fact? What is historical evidence? Defining Context

Reading: Rampolla, pp. 6-21

Precept assignment #1

Week IV

Lecture: Race and Religion

Reading: Select verses from the Bible; Frederickson, pp. 17-47

Discussion: What is interpretation? What do we mean by historical significance or meaning? What is a narrative?

Reading: Rampolla, pp. 6-21

Week V

The Early Modern Period: The Discovery of the New World

Reading: Jennifer Morgan, “‘Some Could Suckle over their Shoulder’: Male Travelers, Female Bodies, and the Gendering of Racial Ideology, 1500-1770” (pdf file)

Discussion: Reading, analysis and writing based on primary sources

Reading: Rampolla, pp. 22-35

Precept assignment #2

Week VI

Race and slavery

Reading: David Brion Davis, “From White to Black: European Expansion and the Changing Sources of Slaves” (pdf file)

Discussion: Reading, analysis, and writing based on secondary sources

Reading: Rampolla, pp. 36-41.

Week VII

The Enlightenment

Reading: Frederickson, pp. 51-65

Precept assignment #3

Week VIII

Discussion: Taking and passing (hopefully with an “A”) a history exam

Reading: Rampolla, pp. 42-48.

Wednesday, February 25: In class Midterm Exam – bring blue book

Week IX

Spring Break, No Classes

Week X

The Age of Nationalism

Reading: Frederickson, pp. 65-95

Discussion: Formulating research questions; discussion of bibliography project

Reading: Rampolla, pp. 77-97

Precept assignment #4

Week XI

Eugenics

Reading: David Micklos and Elof Carlson, “Engineering American Society: The Lesson of Eugenics” (pdf file)

Discussion: Library sessions *meet in front of the circulation desk in Library West*

Reading: Rampolla, pp. 49-76

Week XII

The Age of Extreme Nationalism

Reading: Frederickson, pp. 99-138

March 28 Discussion: Varieties of historical sources

Precept assignment #5

Week XIII

The Racial “Other” Responds

Reading: Nancy Stepan and Sander Gilman, “Appropriating the Idioms of Science”

Discussion: What is a Usable Past?

Reading: Kim F. Hall, “Beauty and the Beast of Whiteness: Teaching Race and Gender” (pdf file)

Precept assignment #6

Week XIV

History and Memory: Race and modern culture

Reading: Frederickson, pp. 139-150

History and the Emotions

Viewing Assignment: Chris Rock, “Racism,” on *youtube*

Reading: Rampolla, pp. 106-117

Week XV

So, what’s so bad about racial thinking?

Reading: Frederickson, pp. 151-170

Discussion: Taking and passing a history exam-- Again

Precept assignment #7

Week XVI

Monday, April 20 **In class Midterm Exam – bring blue books!**