HIS 6061 Professor Sheryl Kroen
M 8-10, 3PM-6PM FLI 013 219 Keene-Flint
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Introduction to Historiography

Description: This course offers an introduction to important theoretical debates defining the practice of history today. While most of the readings focus on Europe—the European example, European philosophy and theory—the goal of the course is to offer analytical and theoretical tools that have been fundamental in all fields of history. Chakrabarty’s Provincializing Europe certainly makes that argument for us, but throughout the course students will enact this by reading and writing on a historical field of their choice, in light of the common readings.

Requirements: This is a reading seminar, with short weekly writing assignments, two book reviews, and a long historiographical essay at the end of the semester. The short weekly assignments are designed to develop mastery of the material we are reading, and to improve the quality of our class discussion. The two book reviews are designed to develop a working bibliography to serve as the foundation for the final written assignment: a historiographical analysis in the students' own field of specialization.

Weekly papers: 20%
Book Review 1 10%
Book Review 2 10%
Annotated Bibliography 10%
Final Essay 30%
Final Presentation 10%
Class Discussion 10%

Required Reading: Most of the classic texts (Locke, Smith, Marx, Marx, Defoe, Melville, etc.) are available on-line and in the library, but you may want to purchase your own copies. I really like the Smith and Melville editions noted below. In some cases we will only be reading excerpts, so look at the full syllabus below before you purchase books.

Bolded below are the books that we will read in full.

Claude Levi-Strauss, Tristes Tropiques (1955)
John Locke, Two Treatises on Government (1690)
Daniel Defoe, Robinson Crusoe (1719)
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Discourse on Inequality (1755) Bedford Edition recommended (2011), with introduction by Helena Rosenblatt; Emile (1762), Social Contract (1762)
Adam Smith, The Theory of Moral Sentiments (1759) and The Wealth of Nations (1776) (Modern Library Edition)
Raynal, *History of the Two Indies* (1777)
Karl Marx, *18th Brumaire of Louis Napoleon* (1852)
Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (1929)
Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (1949)
Franz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961 orig., with introduction by Jean-Paul Sartre)
Michel Foucault, *Archeology of Knowledge* (1969)

Most weeks there are choices for the secondary texts, so I have not listed those here. Here are only the books I want everyone to read. Lynn Hunt, former President of the AHA, and expert on the French Revolution and historiography, will be visiting UF in October to give a keynote at a conference at the Harn Art Museum on Women in the 18th Century (October 20-22); she has generously agreed to meet with our seminar (see October 20th below). She has even offered to send us hard-cover remaindered copies of her recent *Writing History in the Global Era*. I have designed the readings in the weeks before her visit to prepare us to have a great conversation.


**Week by Week Schedule:**

8/21  Introductions

Claude Levi-Strauss, *Tristes Tropiques* (1955)

8/28  Civilization questioned *after*

imperfect pdf, but which gives you an idea of the text (for free):

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (1949) "Introduction"
https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/de-beauvoir/2nd-sex/introduction.htm
Franz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961): read intro by Sartre, and Concerning Violence, Colonial Wars and Mental Disorders (for his work as a psychiatrist in Algeria) and Conclusion

*The Idea of Civilization as an Agent of History*

9/4 Labor Day, no class

Read (to be discussed next week):
Michel Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge* (orig. 1969)

9/11 *All the World's America: Commerce as Civilization at the heart of the Scottish and French Enlightenments*

John Locke, *Two Treatises on Government* (1690) (excerpts)

*Shipwrecks and Civilization: The Critical Enlightenment*

9/18 *Das is Doux Commerce?*

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (1719)

Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume I*: Part VIII, "Of Primitive Accumulation" (1867)

The following article, which will help you put Defoe and Marx and Locke together:

9/25 *The Guilty Posture: The Birth of Critical Anthropology*

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality* (1755) The Bedford Edition is great, with Helena Rosenblatt's introduction
*Emile* (1762) (selections)
Raynal, *History of the Two Indies* (1777) (selections)
Anoush Terjanian, *Commerce and its Discontents in 18C Political Thought*  
(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013) selected chapters

Critical Anthropology: Levi-Strauss claimed that anthropology was born out of guilt for the conquest, and Rousseau is his gateway to this discussion. So this is a good moment to think about the anthropological turn toward rites, rituals and thick description that has characterized historical practice since the 1960s. If last week you read *Whigs and Hunters* or Mintz, you can circle back and think about how anthropology figured in their work.

NZ Davis and EP Thompson both had articles in one issue of 1971 *Past and Present*, 50: 1. Read one or the other.

10/2  
*The Enlightened Disposition: Adam Smith and Turgot, Before*

Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759) and *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), excerpts

Choose 1 of Rothschild's books:

Emma Rothschild, *Economic Sentiments: Adam Smith, Condorcet, and the Enlightenment*  
(Harvard University Press, 2001)

or


*The Making of History (and the End of History) since 1789*

10/9  
The Enlightenment and The French Revolution: Whither the Revolution?


Use Lynn Hunt and Jack Censor's website to explore the historiography and history of the French Revolution
http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/

Guide to website:
Be sure to read the following critical documents: "The Third Makes a Claim," Abbe de Sieyes, "What is the Third Estate?" and the August 4 Decrees (which ended Feudalism)

"Enlightenment and Human Rights" and "Legacies of the French Revolution" present the basic liberal/political interpretation of the Revolution
Make sure to read excerpts by: Burke, Wollstonecraft, Hegel, Tocqueville

10/16  The French Revolution as Foundational Event: The Birth of Modern Politics and Ideology

Rousseau, *Social Contract* (1762) (especially the chapter, "The Legislator")
and (for a discussion of the "New Cultural History" that she enacted in this book, and the linguistic turn):
http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/j.ctt1ppfh6

For students more interested in women and gender history:
Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance and the French Revolution*
also read website section, "Women and the French Revolution"

Lynn Hunt has generously offered to send us copies of her most recent intervention in historiographical debates: *Writing History in a Global Age* (Norton, 2015)

10/20  SPECIAL MEETING WITH LYNN HUNT!! Time and place to be announced.

10/23  Marx and Tocqueville looking back to 1789 after 1848 and 1851/2

Karl Marx, *Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon* (1852)
and
Alexis de Tocqueville, *The Old Regime and the French Revolution* (1856)

10/30  What Revolution?


Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno* (1855) The Bedford Edition is great!

11/6 Modern Civilized Subjects in the Age of the Commodity: Paris, Capital of the 19C


Sigmund Freud, Civilization and its Discontents (1929)

Walter Benjamin, "Paris, Capital of the 19th Century" (1937)

11/13 The Age of Empire under "Enlightened States"


or


Everybody read:

If you did not already read Part III of Said's Orientalism (1978): earlier in the semester, this is a good time to do so: Chapter 3, “Orientalism, Now,” pp. 201-328.

11/20 The Unspeakable Past: History and Memory


Class Choice: Choose an article or book that treats an unspeakable event or issue with which historians in your field have been trying to grapple (or avoid)

11/27 The Making of History, after

Levi-Strauss, Tristes Tropiques (1955)
Sheryl Kroen, From the Rubble to the Recovery: Building the Europe Train, 1945-1953 (draft chapters)

12/4 Presentations