Practicum: Middle Eastern Cities

HIS 3942 sect. 8644 & 8645

Dr. Michelle Campos
Office: 234 Keene-Flint
E-mail: mcampos@ufl.edu

University of Florida
Fall 2012
Office Hours: T 1-3 pm

Grader: Ross Larkin
rosslarkinlarkin@gmail.com

Everyone:

Sect. 8644:
T 10: 40-11:30
Anderson 0034
Th 10:40-11:30
Flint 101
Sect. 8645:
Th 11:45-12:35
Flint 101

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What it history? How do we study it? What do professional historians do? These are among the questions we will address in HIS 3942: The History Practicum, a course that introduces the new history major to the professional study of history today.

This course has two dual aims: 1) it uses two prominent Middle Eastern cities—Istanbul and Jerusalem—as laboratories for exploring the contours of urban life, the lived experiences of city-dwellers, and the city as the setting of broader historical transformations; and 2) it introduces students to the many skills and tools of historical study, namely, critical thinking, analysis, research and writing skills.

EXPECTATIONS:

1) **General:** Students are expected to use the course e-learning website to download course materials (syllabus, assignments, discussion questions), upload assignments, and to keep up with any course announcements. [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/)

2) **Meetings:** The class meets twice a week – on Tuesdays, the entire class meets for lectures or field trips; on Thursdays the class splits into two precept sessions to discuss the week’s readings in detail. **Attendance and active participation in all course sessions is mandatory.** It is your responsibility to sign in on a daily basis. Cumulative absence for reasons other than legitimate illness or documented emergency will be penalized.

3) **Preparation:** Students are expected to be active participants in all course sessions. This means that you have read the reading assignments closely and critically before each session, that you come prepared with questions and comments, that you speak up in class on a regular basis, and that you have prepared all written assignments.
i. I strongly suggest that you keep a “reading journal” in addition to whatever margin notes you take on the readings. In your journal you might “warm up” by writing a brief summary of the readings, but more importantly, it is a good place to keep questions as well as your thoughts on the readings.

ii. For any given set of readings, consider the following questions as a starting point from which to develop your own thoughts: What kind of text are we reading (primary source, secondary source (scholarly analysis), sacred text, biography, travel narrative, etc.)? Who wrote it and who was their intended audience? For each text, identify and evaluate its central narrative or argument, the kinds of evidence the author marshals to support it, and the historical, political, or cultural stakes at hand.

iii. Please note: Simply showing up to class will not earn you an “A” in class participation. Sitting silently in class neither shows me that you have read the required material nor contributes to our collective dialogue. If you are nervous or unsure about how to participate productively in class, come see me right away so that we can jointly strategize.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1) Personal Photo: Please UPLOAD a recent photo of yourself (face clearly visible) onto the course website (under My Workspace: Profile) by Friday, August 31. This helps immeasurably in getting to know each other’s names right away.

2) Weekly assignments: You will have a short assignment most weeks of the semester, ranging from preparing or answering discussion questions, to a short 1 page analysis of a source.


5) Final Project: The final project involves assembling a website presenting the history of a Middle Eastern city. You will work in teams to find and evaluate primary and secondary sources. Due December 10.

6) HIS3942 Final Assessment: This is a brief but mandatory assessment that will be distributed on the last day, to be completed in class.

ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:

- Only students with a documented medical or family emergency will be granted extensions on an assignment, but they must consult the professor prior to the deadline.
- Turning in an assignment late without an approved extension will result in a deduction of 1/3 grade per day.

GRADES:

Weekly assignments and participation: 40%
Paper #1 Primary Source Analysis: 15%
Paper #2 Book Review: 20%
Final Project 25%

Grading Policy and Scale:

Your final grade is directly correlated to the effort you make in the class. Other than in cases of genuine miscalculation, I will not consider requests to change, curve, “forgive”, or otherwise alter the grade you earn. If you need a certain grade to graduate with honors, meet major requirements, get into law school, or make your parents happy, make sure you do the appropriate level of work throughout the semester. If you are concerned about your grade, by all means come talk to me early on so that we can jointly address ways you might improve your course performance.

Please note the new UF grading scale effective as of summer 2009:
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html#calculatinggpa

In my course, note the following grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>E1</td>
<td>0.0 Stopped attending or participating prior to end of class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>0.0 Incomplete</td>
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Office Hours and Email:

Students are strongly encouraged to come to office hours to introduce yourselves to the professor as well as to discuss any substantive questions, comments, or concerns you might have about the course material. You may also contact me via email for factual questions or clarifications (but please consult the syllabus first to make sure the information is not already here), and I will respond as soon as I can between 9-5 Monday through Friday. Please note: I typically do not check or respond to email in the evenings or on weekends.

University Policies:

- Plagiarism: Students are expected to abide by the university academic honesty policy, which includes properly citing all sources used in your course assignments. When in doubt, cite! For more information, see http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php
ALL CASES OF SUSPECTED PLAGIARISM WILL BE REPORTED TO THE APPROPRIATE UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES. NO EXCEPTIONS.

- SPECIAL NEEDS: Should you have special medical needs, please discuss this with the course instructor at the beginning of the semester. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.
- CONFIDENTIALITY: Student records are confidential. UF views each student, not their parent(s), as the primary contact for all communication. For more information, see: www.registrar.ufl.edu/ferpahub.html

READINGS: The following books are available for purchase in area bookstores or via online vendors; they are also on reserve in Library West (ARES). Unless otherwise noted, readings marked with an * will be on ARES course reserves through Library West. Note: some items on ARES reserves are PDF files you may download, while others may be hard-copies that you will need to go to the library to read. Plan ahead!

MARY RAMPOLLA, A POCKET GUIDE TO WRITING HISTORY (7TH EDITION)


Irfan Orga, Portrait of a Family

Meron Benvenisti, City of Stone: The Hidden History of Jerusalem
## Course schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lecture topic for joint session--Tuesdays</th>
<th>Methodological discussion/reading – Tuesdays</th>
<th>Topic discussion material--Thursdays</th>
<th>Assignment—unless otherwise noted, these are due in the precept session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 (8/23) | Introduction to the field                  | What is History? Why do we study it? How do we write it? | Rampolla, "Why Study History?" pp. 1-5  
*Sam Wineburg, “Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts,” Phi Delta Kappan, March 1999 [available on course website] | | Discussion questions on this reading—due Tuesday 8/28 |
| 2 (8/28 & 8/30) | Introduction to the topic – urban history & urbanism in the ME | What are cities? How do we study the history of cities? | Rampolla, "Reading actively in History," pp. 22-26  
Rael, “Predatory Reading” and “Some Keys to Good Reading” | Rethinking the “Islamic City”  
| 3 (9/4 & 9/6) | Identifying historical sources             | Digital history: Dr. Laurie Taylor, UF  
Digital Humanities Librarian | | LIBRARY DAY—DR. CAMPOS WILL BE AT A CONFERENCE IN TURKEY | Library visit scavenger hunt assignment—due 9/11 in class |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4 (9/11 & 9/13) | Identifying historical sources, Part I: Primary Sources | Lecture: From Constantinople to Istanbul  
Rampolla, “Working with sources”, pp. 6-15 |
Rampolla, pp. 16-21  
Rael, “How to Read a Secondary Source” |
*Timothy Mitchell, “The World as Exhibition,” |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Zeynep Çelik, Displaying the Orient: Architecture of Islam at Nineteenth-Century World’s Fairs, selections TBA</td>
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<td>7 (10/2 &amp; 10/4)</td>
<td>Evaluating historical sources, Part IV: Memoirs</td>
<td>Irfan Orga, Portrait of a Family</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Paul Dumont, “The Everyday Life of an Istanbul Townsman at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century,” in A. Hourani et al., eds., The Modern Middle East, pp. 271-287</td>
<td>Primary source analysis 15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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[http://at.centropa.org/medien/08021513015185.pdf](http://at.centropa.org/medien/08021513015185.pdf)  
[http://www.iictd.org/medvoices/alexandria/abstracts_7.cfm](http://www.iictd.org/medvoices/alexandria/abstracts_7.cfm) |
<p>|                            | *Valerie Yow, Recording Oral History: A Guide for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Chapter 1 (Introduction to the In-Depth Interview) and Chapter 2 (Oral History and Memory) | * Donald Ritchie, Doing Oral History: A Practical Guide, Chapter 1 (An Oral History of Our Time) |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
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</table>
| 9 (10/16 & 10/18) | Evaluating historical sources, Part VI: Films and popular culture | *Evaluating Istanbul* Part II  
In-Class Film: Crossing the Bridge: The Sound of Istanbul (Fatih Akin, 2005, 90 min.) | Rampolla, "Film Reviews," 39-42 | Film Screening, Continued  
Film response due 10/23 |
| 10 (10/23 & 10/25) | Evaluating historical sources, Part VII: Internet sources | *Jerusalem: An Introduction*  
“Evaluating Primary Source Web Sites” at http://www.ala.org/alaman/groups/divs/rusa/sections/history/resources/pubs/usingprimarysources/index.cfm  
“Scholarly Authority in a Wikified world” by William Cronon, Perspectives on History, February 2012  
“Jerusalem” – Wikipedia  
Compare between the following websites:  
'Ir Amim: http://www.ir-amim.org.il/eng/  
'Ir David– City of David (Elad Foundation):  
http://www.cityofdavid.org.il/en  
Emek Shave:  
http://www.alt-arch.org/ |
| 11 (10/30 & 11/1) | Evaluating historical sources, Part VIII: Maps | FIELD TRIP: Map Library – Joe Aufmuth & Carol McAuliffe  
*Yair Wallach, “Trapped in mirror-images: The rhetoric | Map analysis |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 (11/6 &amp; 11/8)</td>
<td>Thinking like a historian, Part I: Gathering evidence</td>
<td>Jerusalem the Sacred, Jerusalem the Lived</td>
<td>*Mark Twain, <em>Innocents Abroad</em>(selection TBA)</td>
<td>Start to prepare final project plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 (11/13 &amp; 11/15)</td>
<td>Thinking like a historian, Part II: Gathering Evidence</td>
<td>Jerusalem Lost: Lecture on 1948 and after</td>
<td>Meron Benvenisti, <em>City of Stone: The Hidden History of Jerusalem</em></td>
<td>Book review due 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 (11/20 &amp; 11/22)</td>
<td>Thinking like a historian, Part III: Identifying and constructing an interpretive argument</td>
<td>Jerusalem Found: How to write a history of shared city</td>
<td><em>Thanksgiving—NO CLASS</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>16 (12/ )</td>
<td>Assessment and Conclusion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final project 25% City “web page”</td>
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