

University of Florida  
Department of History  
Fall 2020

## **HIS6061: Introduction to Historiography**

Professor Sean Adams

M 8-10 (3-6 pm)

Keene-Flint Hall 0013

### **Course Introduction and Objectives**

This intensive reading seminar will examine the variety of ways in which historians create history. We will look at theory, methods, and mediums of recreating the past over the course of the semester by exploring works written about various time periods and locations; the common thread will be the shared task of understanding past events and making them relevant to present generations.

By the conclusion of this course, you should have an appreciation for some of the different approaches employed by historians of various generations, the ways in which they attempt to make their work relevant to both scholarly audiences and the public, and a greater appreciation of how history is created.

### **Required Readings**

There are thirteen (13) required texts available for purchase at the UF Bookstore and online. Some of these are in various editions and you need not get the latest (and likely more expensive) one for this seminar. If you choose to purchase these books online, please make sure that you leave enough time for shipping. A tardy delivery will not be an acceptable excuse for not having the reading materials.

Marc Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*

E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*

David Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*

Michael Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge*

Luise White, *Speaking with Vampires: Rumor and History in Colonial Africa*

Karen Fields and Barbara Fields, *Racecraft: The Soul of Inequity in American Life*

Kyle Harper, *The Fate of Rome: Climate, Disease, and the End of an Empire*

Kathryn Burns, *Colonial Habits: Convents and the Spiritual Economy of Cuzco, Peru*

Michel Rolph-Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*

Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812*

Dorothy Ko, *Cinderella's Sisters: A Revisionist History of Footbinding*

Jo Guldi and David Armitage, *The History Manifesto*

## Attendance

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions in this seminar. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms.](#)

## Grading Policy

Your grade in this class will be determined by a combination of your written work on a series of essays and reviews, as well as your participation in class discussion. We will go over the expectations for the written work in more detail once the semester begins. As for discussion, please complete the readings in their entirety and come to class ready to discuss them. Seminar discussions are often free-flowing and are only as successful as their participants make them, so please come to our discussions ready to contribute.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Your final grade will be calculated on the following basis:

Grade Calculation	Grading Scale	Grade Value
First Essay: 20%	100-93=A	A=4.0
First Review: 10%	92-90=A-	A-=3.67
Second Essay: 15%	89-87=B+	B+=3.33
Second Review: 10%	86-82=B	B=3.00
Final Essay: 20%	82-80=B-	B-=2.67
Discussion: 25%	79-76=C+	C+=2.33
	75-72=C	C=2.00
	71-69=C-	C-=1.67
	68-66=D+	D+=1.33
	65-62=D	D=1.00
	61-60=D-	D-=0.67
	59-0=E	E=0.00

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 Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>). The DSO will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor and Student Conduct Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, as it constitutes intellectual theft and academic dishonesty. If you turn in the work of others and try to pass it off as your own, you will fail that assignment and risk expulsion from the University of Florida. I will give you the guidelines, expectations, and other information regarding the written work in this course, so you really have no reason to cheat. I take these matters very seriously and will prosecute vigorously if provoked. Any possible rewards derived from plagiarism simply don’t justify the risk! All students must conform to UF’s honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, and the use of copyrighted materials. Your major assignments will be monitored with the Turnitin Anti-Plagiarism Service, so please keep in mind that cheating on the assignments in this course will be much more difficult than actually doing the work.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## **Seminar Schedule (Subject to Change)**

August 31     Introduction

Readings: Bloch, *The Historian’s Craft*

September 7—Labor Day Holiday

### **Classic Themes**

September 14 The View from the Bottom Rail

Readings: Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*

September 21 Memory and History

Readings: Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*

First Essay Due: Friday, 25 September 2020

September 28 The Great\* Man\* Approach to History

Choose One (1) from the following list:

Andrew Roberts, *Napoleon: A Life*

Stacy Schiff, *Cleopatra: A Life*

Jung Chang and Jon Halliday, *Mao: The Unknown Story*

Marie Arana, *Bolivar, American Liberator*

Antonia Fraser, *Mary Queen of Scots*

First Brief (500-750 word) Book Review Due: Friday, 2 October 2020

### **Methodology**

October 5 The Theoretical Turn

Readings: Foucault, *The Archaeology of Knowledge*

October 12 Rumor and Oral History

Readings: White, *Speaking With Vampires: Rumor and History in Colonial Africa*

October 19 Thinking and Writing About Race in History

Readings: Karen Fields and Barbara Fields, *Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life*

October 26 Gibbon vs. Germs: STEM Takes on an Ancient Question

Readings: Harper, *The Fate of Rome: Climate, Disease, and the End of an Empire*

November 2 Cloistered, But Not Forgotten:

Readings: Burns, *Colonial Habits: Convents and the Spiritual Economy of Cuzco, Peru*

Second Essay Due: Friday 6 November 2020

November 9 Answering the Big Questions

Readings: Pomerantz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*

Second Brief (500-750 word) Book Review Due: Friday, 13 November 2020

### **Historians at Work**

November 16 Recreating a World

Readings: Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812*

November 23 Reading Between the Documents

Readings: Trouillout, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*

November 30 Revisionism and the Body in History

Readings: Ko, *Cinderella's Sisters: A Revisionist History of Footbinding*

December 7 The Future of History?

Readings: Guldi and Armitage, *The History Manifesto*

Final Essay Due: Monday, 14 December 2020

### **Contact Information**

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Office Hours: M 1-2:30 pm, W 9-10 am, & by appointment