

HIS 3942: THE HISTORY PRACTICUM: TAIWAN IN THE WORLD

Instructor: Prof. James Gerien-Chen

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Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays 10:40–11:30am; Thursdays 10:40am–12:35pm

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3–5pm; Thursdays 4–5pm (Keene-Flint 204 or via Zoom)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This History Practicum course, a prerequisite for all History majors, aims to introduce students to the principles and practices of history. We will discuss how to find and interpret primary sources in a variety of genres. We will consider how historians place sources in a narrative that makes an argument about the past. Finally, we will analyze how and why academic historians debate the significance of their arguments (historiography).

This practicum will take as its case study the history of Taiwan. From 1600 to the present, successive powers, including the Dutch, Qing Chinese, and Japanese empires, shaped the island's history and identity. Contested historical narratives about Taiwan's past—was it a frontier of China's last empire (the Qing), or a model colony of Japan, the world's first non-Western, modern empire?—reflect and shape the complexity of its geopolitical present. Primary sources include travelogues, newspapers, visual sources/postcards, and oral histories, among others. Secondary sources will introduce students to multiple genres and scales of history writing, including global/transnational history, microhistory, and historical memory. No background in (East) Asian history is required.

While developing skills in reading and analyzing primary and secondary sources, students will work throughout the semester towards producing a proposal for a potential research project, or prospectus.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 10th ed. (Bedford St. Martin's, 2021). (Earlier editions will work.)

Joseph Allen, *Taipei: City of Displacements* (University of Washington Press, 2012).

All other texts will be made available on Canvas or are otherwise accessible online, through the UF Library, Internet Archive, or other resource.

POLICIES AND RESOURCES

This course complies with all UF policies. For information on those policies and a list of campus resources, please see the following page: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Class Participation (20%): You should come to class prepared to engage in discussions, field trips (to the Library), and workshops. Unexcused absences and lack of class preparation will adversely affect your grade.

Activities (40%): Weekly exercises and activities will incrementally build the skills you need to succeed as a history major. These will include summarizing and analyzing primary/secondary sources; notetaking; accessing materials online and in print; composing bibliographies; drafting research questions; and otherwise.

Active Reading Journal (20%): An important goal of this class is learning how to read in a history class, which you will do by keeping an active reading journal. Your journal will be checked periodically throughout the semester.

Research Paper Prospectus (20%): This capstone assignment of the History Practicum will propose a potential research project, including a topic description, research question, historiography/methodology, and annotated bibliography. Activities in the final weeks of the semester will serve as the building blocks for the prospectus. Due April 29, 9 am.

GRADING SCALE

93.3-100%	A	73.3-76.6%	C
90-93.2%	A-	*70-73.2%	C-
86.7-89.9%	B+	66.7-69.9%	D+
83.3-86.6%	B	63.3-66.6%	D
80-83.2%	B-	60-63.2%	D-
76.7-79.9%	C+	Below 60	E

*A grade of C- does not count as a passing grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or basic distribution requirements.

For more information on UF's grading systems and policies, please see the [UF Undergraduate Catalog](#).

READING AND CLASS SCHEDULE

Dates	Readings
January 13, 15	Antoinette Burton, "Introduction: Archive Fever, Archive Stories," in <i>Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History</i> , ed. Antoinette Burton (Duke University Press, 2005), 1–9. [UF Library]
Jan. 20, 22	<p>CHEN Di, "An Account of the Eastern Barbarians," in Laurence Thompson, "The Earliest Chinese Eyewitness Accounts of the Formosan Aborigines," <i>Monumenta Serica</i> 23 (1964), 163–204. [UF Library]</p> <p>"Account of the Inhabitants" and "Memorandum from Rev. G. Candidius to Governor Nuyts," in William Campbell, <i>Formosa under the Dutch: Described from Contemporary Records, with Explanatory Notes and a Bibliography of the Island</i> (London: Kegan Paul, 1903), 9–24, 89–92. [Internet Archive]</p>
Jan. 27, 29	<p>Emma Teng, <i>Taiwan's Imagined Geography: Chinese Colonial Travel Writing and Pictures, 1683–1895</i> (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2004), 60–80. [Canvas]</p> <p>Leigh Jenco, "Chen Di's <i>Record of Formosa</i> (1603) and an Alternative Chinese Imaginary of Otherness," <i>The Historical Journal</i> 64 (No. 1), 17–42. [UF Library]</p> <p>Edward Said, <i>Orientalism</i> (Vintage Books, 1979), 1–28. [Canvas]</p>
February 3, 5	<p>George Psalmanazar, <i>Historical and Geographical Description of Formosa, An Island subject to the Emperor of Japan</i> (London, 1704), excerpts [Internet Archive]</p> <p>Benjamin Breen, "No Man Is an Island: Early Modern Globalization, Knowledge Networks, and George Psalmanazar's Formosa," <i>Journal of Early Modern History</i> 17, No. 4 (2013): 391–417. [UF Library]</p>
Feb. 10, 12	<p>Robert Eskildsen, "Of Civilization and Savages: The Mimetic Imperialism of Japan's 1874 Expedition to Taiwan," <i>The American Historical Review</i> 107, No. 2 (April 2002): 388–418. [UF Library]</p> <p>Taiwan Expedition "Shinbun Nishiki-e" documents [Canvas]</p> <p>Lane J. Harris, "Chapter 21: The Making of Taiwan Province, 1872–1887," in <i>The Peking Gazette: A Reader in Nineteenth-Century Chinese History</i> (Brill, 2018), 224–237. [Canvas]</p>
Feb. 17, 19	Paul Barclay, "Peddling Postcards and Selling Empire: Image-Making in Taiwan under Japanese Colonial Rule," <i>Japanese Studies</i> 30, No. 1 (May 2010), 81–110. [Request via UF Library]

	Visit to UF Smathers Library
Feb. 24, 26	No assigned readings; instructor at conference.
March 3, 5	Sayaka Chatani, "Between 'Rural Youth' and Empire: Social and Emotional Dynamics of Youth Mobilization in the Countryside of Colonial Taiwan under Japan's Total War," <i>The American Historical Review</i> 122, No. 2 (April 2017): 371–398. [UF Library] Oral History of Ms. GUO Qiumei [Canvas]
Mar. 10, 12	Tonio Andrade, "A Chinese Farmer, Two African Boys, and a Warlord: Toward a Global Microhistory," <i>Journal of World History</i> 21, No. 4 (December 2010): 573–591. [UF Library]
Mar. 17, 19	Spring Break
Mar. 24, 26	Translated primary sources from James Gerien-Chen "Taiwan-Registered Junks and the Changing Geographies of Maritime Trade and Public Finance in Late Qing Fujian" [Canvas]
Mar. 31, April 2	Joseph Allen, <i>Taipei: City of Displacements</i> (University of Washington Press, 2012), ix–90.
April 7, 9	Joseph Allen, <i>Taipei: City of Displacements</i> (University of Washington Press, 2012), ix–90.
Apr. 14, 16	Student Presentations/Research Workshops
Apr. 21	Wrap-up discussion
Apr. 29	Final Paper (Prospectus) due