

History 610.001: Study and Writing of History
Spring 2018
Wednesdays 7:20 pm – 10:00 pm
Research Hall 202

Professor Joan Bristol
Office: Robinson B 345
Email: jbristol@gmu.edu
Office hours: Monday 1-2, Wednesday 4-5

This course examines trends in historical analysis and focuses primarily on the work of twentieth- and twenty-first-century scholars working in the United States. Although most of the scholars whose work we will examine wrote on early modern Europe and the Americas, this class is focused on historiography rather than on a specific region or time period. We will discuss the way that historians choose and interpret their sources, the elements that affect their interpretations, and how and why these interpretations have developed and changed over time.

Assignments and grading:

- 1) *Class participation (33% of the final grade)*. Participation will be measured by involvement in class discussions.
- 2) *Class blog (33% of final grade)*: You will post to the discussion board (on Blackboard) ten times over the course of the semester. You may write about some aspect of the readings that you found interesting or puzzling, you may compare it to other books we have read, you can write about the sources the author used, or you may do something else. The requirement is that you make clear that you have read, understood, and thought about the book and that you are able to assess it in a holistic way and make connections to the larger class theme.
- 3) *Essay, due at the end of the semester (33% of the final grade)*. Please see the assignment below.

Class policies:

- 1) Please arrive in class on time and stay for the entire class period. If you know that you will be late to class or that you need to leave early please let me know ahead of time.
- 2) Do not eat during class. (You may bring a drink but don't spill it.)
- 3) If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Honor Code:

George Mason has an honor code you must adhere to it. It is as follows:

“To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.”

If I suspect plagiarism or other forms of cheating I will submit my findings to the Honor Committee immediately. You are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism and other kinds of cheating. If you do not understand what constitutes plagiarism and cheating ask me for clarification.

Required texts

The books are available for purchase in the bookstore and from other booksellers, on reserve in the library, and through WRLC and ILL (in all cases this should be the most recent paperback edition). **An ** means that we have an online edition available through the library.**

Books:

Bloch, *Feudal Society I*

Braudel, *Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World, I*

Cronon, *Changes in the Land*

**Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Hooper, *Feeding Globalization*

**Obeyesekere, *Apotheosis of Captain Cook*

**Prescott, *History of the Conquest of Mexico*

Townsend, *History's Babel*

Townsend, *Malintzin's Choices*

**Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*

In addition to these books there are some required articles. Unless otherwise noted these articles are available online through the library.

Schedule:

Week 1 (January 24): History as a Profession I

*****Please read this before you come to class on the first day.*****

American Historical Association, *Statement on Standards of Professional Conduct*.

<https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/statements-and-standards-of-the-profession/statement-on-standards-of-professional-conduct>.

Monday January 29 is the last day to add classes and the last day to drop without tuition penalty.

Week 2 (January 31): History as a Profession II

Townsend, *History's Babel* (2013)

Week 3 (February 7): Producing Histories

****Trouillot, *Silencing the Past* (1995). This is available online through the library as an ACLS Humanities e-book.**

Monday February 12 is the last day to drop with 33% tuition penalty.

Week 4 (February 14): 19th-Century Historical Narrative

****Prescott, *History of the Conquest of Mexico* (1843). Please read Book II: Discovery of Mexico and Book IV: Residence in Mexico. Many versions of this book exist, and one is available online through the library on the Sabin Americana website. Whatever version you choose please make sure you read the version with footnotes.**

Due today: By the beginning of class please email me one term that you think would not be in a 2018 version of the Dictionary of Concepts in History and one that you think should be in a 2018 version. This is related to the final assignment (discussed below).

Week 5 (February 21): Annales I

Bloch, *Feudal Society* Vol. 1 (1939)

Friday February 23 is the final drop deadline (67% tuition penalty).

Week 6 (February 28): Annales II and Global History I

Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II* (1996). Please read: Preface to the English edition; Preface to the second edition; Preface to the first edition; Part I:I The Peninsulas: Mountains, Plateaux, and Plains; Part I:II The Heart of the Mediterranean: Seas and Coasts; Part II:II Precious Metals, Money, and Prices.

Week 7 (March 7): Marxist History

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party* (1848), Chapter I, "Bourgeois and Proletarians." This is available online at the Marxist Internet Archive.

Karl Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (1852), Chapter I, beginning with "Hegel remarks somewhere" and ending with "Hic Rhodus, hic salta!" It is about 7 pages. This is available online at the Marxist Internet Archive.

E.P. Thompson, "Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism," *Past & Present* 38 (1967): 56-97.

E.P. Thompson, "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century," *Past & Present* 50 (1971): 76-136.

MARCH 14 NO CLASS. Spring break!

Week 8 (March 21): Discourse and Social Construction

****Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (1974). This is available online through the library.**

Week 9 (March 28): Race

Barbara J. Fields, "Ideology and Race in American History," in *Religion, Race, and Reconstruction*, 1982. **This is on the Blackboard site for the class, under "Readings."**

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, "African-American Women's History and the Metalanguage of Race," *Signs* 17(2): 251-274 (1992)

Michael O'Malley, "Specie and Species: Race and the Money Question in Nineteenth-Century America," *The American Historical Review* 99 (2): 369-95 (1994)

Nell Irvin Painter, "Thinking about the Languages of Money and Race: A Response to Michael O'Malley, 'Specie and Species'." *The American Historical Review* 99 (2): 396-404 (1994)

Michael O'Malley, "Response to Nell Irvin Painter," *The American Historical Review* 99 (2): 405-08 (1994)

Nell Irvin Painter, YouTube talk on *The History of White People* (2011)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDZUBX_nY_0

Week 10 (April 4): Environment

Cronon, *Changes in the Land* (1983)

Due today: Five-page essay explaining one of the terms you have chosen for your final essay.

Discuss why this term should be included or why it should be excluded. Please support your ideas with evidence from at least three readings we have done this semester. Please email it to me in Word by the beginning of class.

Week 11 (April 11): Gender

Joan W. Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *American Historical Review* 91:5 (December 1986): 1053-1075.

Joanne Meyerowitz, "A History of 'Gender,'" *American Historical Review* 113:5 (December 2008): 1346-1356.

Joan W. Scott, "Unanswered Questions," *American Historical Review* 113:5 (December 2008): 1422-1430.

Toby L. Ditz, "Shipwrecked; or, Masculinity Imperiled: Mercantile Representations of Failure and the Gendered Self in Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia," *Journal of American History* 81:1 (June 1994): 51-80.

Jennifer L. Morgan, "'Some Could Suckle over Their Shoulder': Male Travelers, Female Bodies, and the Gendering of Racial Ideology," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd Ser., 54 (1): 167-192 (1997)

Week 12 (April 18): Post-Colonial History

Obeyesekere, Apotheosis of Captain Cook (1992). **This is available online through the library as an ACLS Humanities e-book; Bernstein, "Books of the Times; Cook Was (a) God or (b) Not a God," May 24, 1995 *New York Times*.

Week 13 (April 25): 21st-Century Historical Narrative

Townsend, *Malintzin's Choices* (2006)

Week 14 (May 2): Global History II
Hooper, *Feeding Globalization* (2017)

FINAL PAPER DUE Friday May 10. Please email them to me in Word.

History 610 Spring 2018 Final paper assignment

Due Friday May 10. Please email the papers to me in Word.

Please look at Harry Ritter, *Dictionary of Concepts in History*, Greenwood Press, 1986 (available at Fenwick Library) and discuss:

- a) two entries in the 1986 text that would not appear in a 2018 version
- b) two entries that are not in the 1986 text that would appear in a 2018 version

Explain your answers and tie them together with an overarching thesis that explains some aspect of the historiography we have discussed this semester. Support your ideas with information from at least six texts that we have discussed in class. Feel free to bring in texts and ideas from your other classes, past and present.

The goal of this paper is to demonstrate that 1) you understand the issues we've discussed in class and 2) that you can talk about the books we've read in a confident and comprehensive way.

Due dates related to this paper:

February 14: Please email me one term that you think would not be in a 2018 version and one that you think should be in a 2018 version.

April 4: Five-page essay explaining one of the terms you have chosen. Why should this term be included or why should this term be excluded? Please support your ideas with evidence from at least three readings we have done this semester. Please email it to me in Word.

May 10: Final paper. Please email it to me in Word.

The final paper should be between 15 and 25 pages.