Hist 2372: Historiography and Methods.

Hist 2372, Sec 010
Online

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Office Hours: MTWThF: 9:00am-11:00am
Or by appointment

Course Objectives: What is Historiography and Why are You Taking It?
Well, you’re taking it because we required it. So there.

So why did we require it, and what the heck is historiography anyway?

There is a perception among people that History simply is, like gravity or sunshine or the Cowboys losing in the first-round of the playoffs. But history is not something that exists outside of the present, and indeed our understanding of history is shaped by our present concerns but and ability to look back and see how modern concerns have historic roots. History is, therefore, in a profound sense something that is MADE by the present. So, while historical facts rarely change, how we understand the past using those facts does change.

So how do historians, in a sense, make history? How do we reconstruct the past with the materials we have inherited from the past? We will explore this and participate in such creation during the class, and in the process learn about the methods historians employ to reconstruct the past.

Historiography is also the history of history. Where did the discipline of history come from? What are some of the different approaches to history that historians have created over time?

Format
This course will be a mixture of participation and discussion through the discussion board and papers based on the readings and discussion.

Assignments and Grades
Assignments will be all papers and discussion. There are no tests in this class.

Papers will be one page summaries (250-500 words) of the week’s readings. Total for these papers is 350 points throughout the semester. Papers will be due via TurnItIn on every Sunday at 11:59pm for the previous week’s reading and discussion board. The following Monday we will move on to the next week’s discussion and paper.
Participation: In class discussion will total 350 points, or 50% of the class grade.
Paper 1: (50 points; Bulletin Board discussion 50)
Paper 2: (50 points; Bulletin Board discussion 50)
Paper 3: (50 points; Bulletin Board discussion 50)
Paper 4: (50 points; Bulletin Board discussion 50)
Paper 5: (50 points; Bulletin Board discussion 50)
Paper 6: (50 points; Bulletin Board discussion 50)
Paper 7: (50 points; Bulletin Board discussion 50)

Grading Scale
A = 700-630
B = 629-560
C = 559-490
D = 489-420 (righteous, Bro!)
F = 419 and below.

Required Readings
See readings links in this syllabus.

Inclement Weather Policy
Basically, if the university is closed, we won’t have class.

Makeup of Exams
You must come to me within two class days to schedule a makeup exam or you will receive a zero.

Plagiarism
Cheating of any sort will not be tolerated, and cheaters will automatically fail this class and be reported to the administration.

The Learning Environment
Please be courteous to your classmates and respectful during discussions. Wear your mask and do your part to help us get through this trying time.

Students with Disabilities
Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to their implementation. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Instructor reserves the right to change or alter the syllabus as necessary.

Helpful Links
Advising: https://www.angelo.edu/dept/advising/ Be sure to set up an advising appointment when advising for Spring begins.

Counseling Services: https://www.angelo.edu/services/counseling/index.php Confidential Counseling is provided to all students free of charge.

Student Handbook: https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/ Outlines the policies students need to know.

Title IX: https://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/ The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022 michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Tutoring Center: https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/academic-tutoring.php

Religious Holidays. Students may miss a day of class to observe a religious holiday, provided they inform the instructor in advance that they will be missing class.

Questions?
Please feel free to contact me or stop by during my office hours.
**Tentative Class Schedule.**

**Week 1 (March 21-25)**

Introduction to the Class and the Origins of History.

Reading one: Jo Guldi and David Armitage, The History Manifesto. Available for free: https://www.cambridge.org/core/what-we-publish/open-access/the-history-manifesto

**Week 2 (March 28-April 1)**

The Question of Narrative and the Origins of History.

Excerpt from Thucydides, *The History of the Peloponnesian War*: Read chapters 1-15. Note each chapter is very short, so don’t freak out! Many scholars consider this an early attempt to create a history using sources and interviews with the intention of telling a complete and accurate picture of a major historical event.

http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3atext%3a1999.01.0200

**Week 3 (March 28-April 1)**

The Empiricists


First published 1776, Gibbon attempts to write an empirical history that relies on his sources and his own interpretations to explain the collapse of the Roman Empire


**Week 4 (April 4-8)**

The Marxists

Drawing off the analysis of Karl Marx (both in his famous work *The Communist Manifesto*, but also his larger, more academic works like *Das Kapital*) several generations of scholars focused their attention on the interaction of social classes and how power was diffused in society. English Historians, like Christopher Hill and EP Thompson, produced works that helped solidify Marxist scholarship as a major historical approach.

Assignment: Excerpt from Christopher Hill, *The English Revolution, 1640*.

https://www.marxists.org/archive/hill-christopher/english-revolution/

**Week 5 (April 11-15)**

The Annales School and the Idea of “Total History”


**Week 6 (April 18-22)**

The New Social History: Race, Class, and Gender
Assignment: Winthrop Jordan, White over Black.

Week 7 (April 25-29)
Postcolonial History
https://monoskop.org/images/6/6b/Fanon_Frantz_The_Wretched_of_the_Earth_1963.pdf

Fanon was an African-Frenchman born in the Caribbean and trained as a doctor, the very educated colonized person he criticizes in his essay. By the 1950s he was disillusioned with the France and its war to hold on to the colony of Algeria. While dying from leukemia he wrote *the Wretched of the Earth*, published after he died.

Week 8 (May 2-6th): Poststructuralism and the Relativism of Truth.

Week 9 (May 9-13): Finals Week
Assignment: TBD