

# HSTY 470: HISTORIOGRAPHY, METHOD, AND THEORY

## MONDAYS, 4-6:30 PM

### GUILFORD 301

PROFESSOR GILLIAN WEISS  
MATHER HOUSE 208  
(216) 368-4107  
[glw@case.edu](mailto:glw@case.edu)

OFFICE HOURS: WEDNESDAYS 2-4 AND BY APPOINTMENT

This course challenges the dictum that history is “just one damned thing another” by exploring selected theoretical approaches that have influenced the field over the past half century. Over the course of the semester, we will consider modes of storytelling, choices of subjects and sources, ideas about change and causation and conceptions of time and space. Overall, the goal is to explore the implicit and explicit assumptions about how much of the past is knowable and the possibilities and limits of its representation.

#### **COURSE MATERIALS**

The following required books are available at the bookstore and will be on reserve at the library:

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis*  
Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Gift in Sixteenth-Century France*  
Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, An Introduction, vol. 1*  
Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures*  
Daniel Lord Smail, *On Deep History and the Brain*  
E.P. Thompson, *The Essential E.P. Thompson*  
Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research, Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.

Additional required readings, marked with a **β**, will be posted on Blackboard. Others are available via JSTOR (link on Blackboard). Please bring the texts with you to class for discussion.

Useful reference tools include Tom Bottomore, *A Dictionary of Marxist Thought*, Raymond Williams, *Keywords* and *The Penguin Dictionary of Critical Theory*.

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Apart from regular attendance and engaged discussion, this course has four major requirements:

1. Two short papers (5-6 pages) that contextualize and provide critical readings of the texts for the week in question. These papers should be posted on Blackboard by 9pm on Wednesday and read by the other students. They will also be presented orally (10 minutes) at the start of seminar.
2. One formal oral commentary on other students' short papers for the week (10 minutes).
3. One research paper (12-15 pages) due December 7. The paper must explicitly engage at least one of the assigned texts and employ proper documentation (as per Kate Turabian or the *Chicago Manual of Style*). A proposal for the paper (2-3 pages plus bibliography) is due October 26. A draft of the paper is due November 9 and will be distributed for discussion.
4. Each student in the seminar is responsible for attaining expertise in five of the terms from the word list at the end of this syllabus.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week One (8/24): Fact

Werner Herzog, *Grizzly Man* (2005) (also on KSL reserve)

**Screening in Mather 100**

### Week Two (8/31): Introduction, Truth & Citation Management

Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt & Margaret Jacob, "Truth and Objectivity" in *Telling the Truth About History*, Chap. 7 β

**Meet in KSL LL06**

**Guest:** Mark Eddy, KSL Librarian, Social Sciences, History & Political Science

### Week Three (TBA): Narrative

Hayden White, *Metahistory: The Historical Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Europe* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973), 1-42. β

Dominick LaCapra, "History, Language and Reading: Waiting for Crillon," *American Historical Review* 100 (1995): 799-828. [JSTOR]

Natalie Zemon Davis, "Introduction" and "The Time of Storytelling" in *Fiction in the Archives: Pardon Tales and their Tellers in Sixteenth-Century France* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1987), 1-35. β

### Week Four (9/14): Time

Daniel Lord Smail, *On Deep History and the Brain* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009).

### Week Five (9/21): Class

Karl Marx, "So-Called Primitive Accumulation," part 8 of *Capital* [1867], any edition (available on the web at <http://www.econlib.org/library/YPDBooks/Marx/mrxCpA26.html> and elsewhere).

E.P. Thompson, Selections from *The Making of the English Working Class* [1963] and "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd" [1991] in *The Essential E.P. Thompson*, Dorothy Thompson, ed. (New York: New Press, 2001).

### Week Six (9/28): Race (& Historical Databases)

Barbara Fields, "Ideology and Race in American History," in J. Morgan Kousser and James McPherson, eds., *Religion, Race and Reconstruction*, Essays in Honor of C. Vann Woodward (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982), 143-177. β

**Meet in KSL 215**

Ann Laura Stoler, "Racial Histories and Their Regimes of Truth" in Philomena Essed and Theo Goldberg eds., *Race Critical Theories: Text and Context* (Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 2002), 369-391. β

Saliha Belmessous, "Assimilation and Racialism in Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century French Colonial Policy," *The American Historical Review* 110, 2 (2005): 322-349 [History Collective].

### Week Seven (10/5): Gender

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (New York: Routledge, 1990), 128-141. β

Joan Wallach Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," "Women in *The Making of the English Working Class*" in *Gender and the Politics of History*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), 28-50, 68-90. β

Joan W. Scott, "Unanswered Questions" in *AHR Forum: Revisiting "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," American Historical Review* 113 (2008): 1422-1430 and one of the other essays in the forum.

### **Week Eight (10/12): Ritual**

Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Towards and Interpretive Theory of Culture" in *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic Books, 1973), 3-30. β

Robert Darnton, "Workers Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre of the rue Saint Séverin" in *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Readings in French Cultural History* (New York: Basic Books, 1985), 76-104. β

Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Gift in Sixteenth-Century France* (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 2000).

### **Week Nine (10/26): Discourse**

**FINAL PAPER PROPOSAL DUE**

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, An Introduction, vol. 1* (New York: Vintage Books, 1990).

### **Week Ten (11/2): Taste**

**Meet in Mather House, Room 100**

Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2008).

Additional article to be assigned by Prof. Norton

**Guest:** Prof. Marcy Norton, Department of History, George Washington University

### **Week Eleven (11/9): Water**

**FIRST DRAFTS OF PAPERS DUE**

Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, 2 vols. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995), 1: 5-10, 13-72. β

Peregrine Horden and Nicholas Purcell, "The Mediterranean and 'the New Thalassology,'" and Alison Games, "Atlantic History: Definitions, Challenges, and Opportunities," *American Historical Review* 111, 3 (2006) [History Collective]

Paul Cohen, "Was there an Amerindian Atlantic? Reflections on the limits of a historiographical concept," *History of European Ideas* 34, 4 (2008): 388-410. β

### **Week Twelve (11/16): Land**

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 1992).

### **Week Thirteen (11/23): Empire**

Edward Said, *Orientalism*, introduction. β

Said, "Orientalism Reconsidered" and Bryan S. Turner, "From Orientalism to Global Sociology" in A.L. Macafie, *Orientalism: A Reader* (New York: NYU Press, 2000), 345-361, 369-374. β

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "A Small History of Subaltern Studies," in *Habitations of Modernity: Essays in the Wake of Subaltern Studies* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002). 3-19. **β**

Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, eds. Lawrence Grossberg and Cary Nelson (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988), pp. 271-313. **β**

**Week Fourteen (11/30): To be determined collectively**

**FINAL PAPER DUE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 5 PM**

## Key Terms for Contemporary Historical Scholarship

Agency  
Alienation  
Authorship  
Authority  
Authoritarianism  
Body  
Capitalism  
Caste  
Civil Society  
Class  
Commodity  
Community  
Context  
Critical Race Theory  
Critical Theory  
Cultural History  
Culture  
Deconstruction  
Democracy  
Development  
Difference  
Discourse  
Emic  
Empiricism  
Environment  
Essentialism  
Ethnicity  
Etic  
Everyday Life  
Experience  
Family  
Functionalism  
Gender  
Hegemony  
Hermeneutics  
Historicism  
Home  
Homeland  
Household  
Humanism  
Identity  
Idealism  
Ideology  
Invention  
Labor  
Materialism  
Memory  
Metanarrative  
Method  
Modernism  
Modernity  
Modernization  
Narrative

Nation  
Nature  
New Cultural History  
New Historicism  
Objectivity  
Orientalism  
Person  
Plot  
Positivism  
Post-colonial Studies  
Pragmatism  
Presentism  
Progress  
Psychohistory  
Race  
Rebellion  
Reductionism  
Resistance  
Revolution  
Science  
Self  
Semiotics  
Sex  
Sexuality  
Slave  
Slavery  
Social Construction  
Social Justice  
Social Movement  
Society  
State  
Status  
Story  
Structuralism  
Structure  
Subaltern Studies  
Subject  
Subjectivity  
Technology  
Teleology  
Text  
Theory  
Totalitarianism  
Totality  
Tradition  
Trauma  
Transference  
Work