

History 3376/01: Historiographical Debates
Spring 2012
MW 8:00-9:15 AM, SO 2035

Instructor: Dr. Gerrit Voogt
Office: SO 4106
Contact: by Vistamail
Office hours: MW 9:30-11:30 AM, or by appointment

Required Readings: Mark T. Gilderhus, *History and Historians: A Historiographical Introduction*, 7th ed.; Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*; John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History* (Oxford/New York: Oxford UP, 2002); Michael J. Hogan, ed. *Hiroshima in History and Memory* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP). Other readings posted on Vista.

1. **Course description:** This course investigates the range of and the major limits and problems inherent in historical understanding and introduces the student to philosophies of history that have sought to address these problems. Case studies of major historical controversies help students recognize the important ways those limits and problems influence even the greatest scholar's efforts at historical analysis.

Besides an overview and discussion of some of the main historiographical trends and the philosophical, methodological and conceptual problems associated with them, the course specifically addresses the possibilities, limitations, and challenges of the writing of history.

2. **Course requirements:** 1. The students are expected to come to class prepared, i.e. you must be able to discuss the assigned readings. Overall class participation plays a role in the determination of the final grade. Each unexcused absence from class causes an automatic reduction of the ten points for participation by one half point.

3. Most of the handouts for this course will be made available through WebCT-Vista; it is the student's responsibility to *print and bring these materials to class*, to keep up with the calendar and possible revisions of the syllabus posted on Vista.

4. There will be a midterm and a final exam on the collective readings and the topics discussed in this class. A few additional short exams will be given on the readings, and there will be a review paper and class discussion on the topic of Hogan's *Hiroshima in History and Memory* (separate instructions will follow).

5. Grading is as follows:

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| Midterm | =20% |
| Presentation | =10% |
| Quizzes | =10% |

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| Review paper | =20% |
| Final | =30% |
| Participation | =10% |

6. Absence from an exam or class presentation will result in a zero grade. In case of a medical or other emergency, contact me before or on the day of the exam, and submit the proper documentation. Excuses after the fact will not be accepted.

7. Academic integrity: No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating.

When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

8. Arrive promptly; late arrivals will be counted as absent if over fifteen minutes late. If you have to leave class early, inform the instructor at the beginning of class. Please do not use laptops except in the first two rows. **CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS.** Don't annoy the class and embarrass yourself! In case of an anticipated emergency, please set phone to vibrate and inform the instructor.

3. **Course schedule:** readings and test/exam dates indicated in **bold**:

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| January 9 Introduction: "the use and abuse of history". | January 11 The birth of historiography in the West Gilderhus, Chs. 1 & 2. Herodotus, BK II chs. 35-98 (Vista) |
| January 16 <i>MLK-Day –no classes</i> | January 18 Historiography continued- Herodotus vs. Homer; Herodotus and Thucydides Readings: Herodotus, <i>The Histories</i>, book II chs. 112-120; Thucydides (selection) (Vista) |
| January 23 Historiography in the West from the Classics to Renaissance Gilderhus Ch. 3 | January 25 History and chronology; History and geography |
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| <p>January 30 The Chinese view of history Readings on Vista</p> | <p>February 1 The Chinese view of history cont'd Sima Qian, <i>Records of the Grand Historian</i> (selection, on Vista)</p> |
| <p>February 6 Historiography: Renaissance to Ranke Gilderhus, chs. 4 & 5</p> | <p>February 8 Renaissance to Ranke cont'd Hegel, selections (Vista) Gilderhus, chs. 4 & 5</p> |
| <p>February 13 Marx's historical materialism and dialectics Gilderhus, chs. 3-4; Marx: selection</p> | <p>February 15 The Annales school Braudel, selection; Marc Bloch, <i>The Historian's Craft</i> (selection) (Vista)</p> |
| <p>February 20 History of ideas and popular culture Carlo Ginsburg, <i>The Cheese and the Worms</i> Prefaces + pp. 1-58</p> | <p>February 22 History of ideas and popular culture Carlo Ginsburg, <i>The Cheese and the Worms</i>, pp. 58-128</p> |
| <p>February 27 History as <i>Herstory</i>: history and gender Joan W. Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," in <i>The American Historical Review</i>, vol. 91 (Dec. 1986), 1053-1075 Review for Midterm</p> | <p>February 29 Midterm exam <i>Bring a Blue/Green Book</i></p> |
| <p>March 12 (Midpoint) The postmodern challenge Appleby et al., <i>Telling the Truth about History</i> (selection, Vista) *Select book for review (Hogan)</p> | <p>March 14 What is History? The landscape of history I: time and space; structure and process; interdependence of variables: Gaddis, <i>The Landscape of History</i>, chs. 1-4</p> |
| <p>March 19 The landscape of history II: discussion of Gaddis, chs. 5-8.</p> | <p>March 21 Culture wars; history and ethnicity; political and historical correctness Gilderhus ch. 7; Hogan, "The Enola Gay Controversy" in Hogan, 200-232.</p> |
| <p>March 26 Historiographical debates I: Hiroshima as history: The facts and the "spin." Discussion of Hogan 1-115 -Introduction</p> | <p>March 28 Presentations: Hiroshima I.1: Necessity of the bomb; Hiroshima I.2: Why no alternative to the Bomb? Motivation; Hiroshima I.3: Japan's responsibility</p> |
| <p>April 2 Presentations: Hiroshima I.4: Diplomatic considerations & the Bomb Hiroshima I.5: Japan's surrender <i>Conclusions: consensus?</i></p> | <p>April 4 Historiographical debates II: Hiroshima: history and memory; Hogan 116-232 – Introduction; Presentations</p> |
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| <p>April 9</p> <p>Presentations: Hiroshima II.1: Coming to grips after 1945 –in Japan; Hiroshima II.2: Coming to grips after 1945 –in America; Hiroshima II.3: The <i>hibakusha</i> and the peace movement</p> | <p>April 11</p> <p>Presentations: Hiroshima II.4: The Bomb as “constructed memory”; Hiroshima II.5: Public History: who controls (re)presentation? <i>Conclusions: the past...and history</i></p> |
| <p>April 16</p> <p>The problem of world history: meta-histories up to 1900 - 20th-century meta-histories (Spengler; Toynbee) Review Gilderhus: sections on world history; Vista</p> | <p>April 18</p> <p>World history: Spengler; Toynbee; Wallerstein’s world system (Vista)</p> |
| <p>April 23</p> <p>Metahistorical approaches: McNeill; Fukuyama; Jared Diamond, <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i> (Vista)</p> | <p>April 25</p> <p>Metahistory: conclusions; historiographical debates (conclusions)</p> |
| <p>May 2</p> <p>Review for Final Book reviews due</p> | <p>May 2</p> <p>Final Exam 8-10 AM – Bring Blue/Green Book</p> |