Updated Course Overview*

HISTORY 712: HISTORIOGRAPHY AND THEORY OF HISTORY
Spring 2017 - Wednesdays, 4:00-6:40pm
UW-Milwaukee Department of History

Seminar Location: HLT 341
Professor Nan Kim

Seminar on the history of historical writing and thought, addressing a range of theoretical concerns including memory, narrative, gender history, postcoloniality, the uses of evidence, & historical erasure.

*The full syllabus will be distributed and discussed at the first class meeting.

This course counts toward fulfilling requirements for the following:
General MA Degree in History, MA in Urban Historical Studies, PhD Degree in History, and the Buildings Landscapes Cultures (blc) Program.

Required Books:

Course Requirements:
- Seminar Participation (35%)
  - Including weekly class sessions, discussion facilitations, and final presentation
- Weekly Précis of Readings (30%)
  - A single-spaced page of informal writing, including a brief summary of main arguments/ideas and at least two discussion talking-points
- Final Paper, 18-20 double-spaced pages (35%)
  - The final paper provides an opportunity for you to think and write about theoretical issues relevant to your own research. This is an analytical essay, rather than a research paper, based on selected course themes. You will thus be expected not to do a term paper encompassing all the seminar readings, but rather to engage with a limited number of texts in greater depth. Your analysis will draw upon 4+ course readings (including at least two required books) of your own choosing among the texts we will read during the semester, along with two outside sources that address your own research interests (e.g. 2 academic articles; 2 book chapters; or a primary source & secondary reading)
  - The Final Paper includes timely completion of informal preparation assignments during the term. These preparation assignments are based on the understanding that writing about theoretical ideas is best done (or perhaps can only be done) as a processual and iterative endeavor.

The reading workload is approximately 180-250 pages per week.
SCHEDULE OF READINGS & SEMINAR TOPICS

Week 1 (1/25). INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Read for discussion toward the end of the first class session:
Georg G. Iggers, *Historiography of the Twentieth Century*, Introduction and Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-35)

Week 2 (2/1).

1. Georg G. Iggers, *Historiography Chapters, 3-5* (pp. 36-64)

Week 3 (2/8).

1. Marc Bloch, *The Historian’s Craft*

Week 4 (2/15).

1. Georg G. Iggers, *Historiography Chapters, 6- 7* (pp. 78-94)
   a. *Theses on Feuerbach* (98-101)
   b. *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (187-208)
   c. “Preface” to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy* (209-213)
5. E. P. Thompson, ”History from Below” and “Agenda for Radical History” in *The Essential E.P. Thompson*.

Week 6 (3/1).


Week 5 (2/22). POSTSTRUCTURALISM AND GENEALOGY OF KNOWLEDGE

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1*

Week 7 (3/8). GENDER HISTORY

Joan Scott, *Gender and the Politics of History*

DUE by noon Fri 3/10: Brief statement re. your independent research interests and prospective Final Paper topic

Week 8 (3/15). HISTORY, SILENCE, & POWER

Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*

Week 9 (3/22). SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (4/5). IN-PERSON PAPER CONSULTATIONS - No class meeting.

In lieu of seminar individual meetings will be held to discuss the final paper in relation to your individual research interests. By now you should have identified your two research sources (e.g. 2 articles; or 1 primary document and 1 secondary source) chosen outside of the course readings.

DUE by noon Fri 4/5: Confirmation/update re. two sources for your Final Paper

During this week, read in preparation for the following week:
1. Iggers, *Historiography*, Part III “History and the Challenge of Postmodernism” and Epilogue (pp. 118-160 ); and
2. Part I of Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe*

Week 11 (4/12). POSTCOLONIALITY & SUBALTERN HISTORY

Complete *Provincializing Europe* for seminar discussion

Week 12 (4/19). HISTORY, TRAUMA, & ERASURE

Caruth, *Literature in the Ashes of History*
DUE by noon Fri 4/21: Annotated bibliography & planning document re. your Final Paper

Week 13 (4/26). WORK WEEK. No assigned readings for the rest of the term to allow time for independent work: the completion of developing, drafting, and revising final papers. Individual meetings will be held this week in lieu of seminar.

DUE by noon 4/26: Provisional outline & pre-writing pages uploaded to D2L

Week 14 (5/3). ORAL PRESENTATIONS

DUE by noon 5/3: Working Draft #1 uploaded to D2L

Week 15 (5/10). ORAL PRESENTATIONS & COURSE CONCLUSION

DUE by noon 5/10: Working Draft #2 uploaded to D2L

Exam Week (5/17)

DUE by noon 5/17: Upload electronic files of your completed Final Paper to the Dropbox. Printed version of the identical file must be handed in by 4pm at Holton 365, or alternative arrangements are possible for the submission of the printed paper.

This represents the course schedule as of the start of the semester, but minor adjustments may be made during the course of the term. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on our D2L homepage.