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History RB 357B  
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Spring 2010  
History 610  
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(to email assignments)

## **THE STUDY AND WRITING OF HISTORY**

### **DESCRIPTION**

This course examines twentieth-century trends in historical analysis. We will pay particular attention to the historical subfields that emerged since the 1960s (for example: the histories of race and ethnicities, women's and gender history, the history of imperialism and post colonialism, etc.). We will not look at all of these, but will try to understand the underlying processes behind new histories by examining some of them. Cultural and social history are the broad rubrics under which most of our work will fall, and we will also be interested in the ways disciplinary boundaries have been both crossed and enforced as history was influenced by trends in other disciplines and other disciplines turned to history. In examining changes in historical practice we will be looking both at how historical and social forces affected historical practices and at debates within and among historical camps. Attention to the ways that historians choose and interpret their sources, efforts to expand the realm of sources and the ways to use them, as well as changing forms of presentation will also form part of our discussions.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

Assignments will be explained in greater detail in handouts and in class. All assignments should be emailed to [dcopelman@gmail.com](mailto:dcopelman@gmail.com). I may also ask you to provide a hard copy.

- **Preparation for and participation in** class discussions (15% of the grade)
- **3 Critical Essays** 4-6 page responses to question(s) related to readings. Due dates below (45%)
- **12-15 page Review Essay** topics have to be approved by the professor (40%)

### **BOOKS**

Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*

Martha Howell & Walter Prevenier, *From Reliable Sources*

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Geoff Eley, *A Crooked Line: From Cultural History to the History of Society*

Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States*

Matthew D. Lassiter, *The Silent Majority: Suburban Politics in the Sunbelt South*

Bethany Moreton, *To Serve God and Wal-Mart: The Making of Christian Free Enterprise*

These books have been ordered by the GMU bookstore. There are additional readings, some of them available on line, others available as photocopies that I will provide. In the weekly assignments photocopies are indicated by PC; online materials by OL. To access online materials off campus you will be asked to login with your GMU email username and email password. I will email the syllabus to all of you and you will be able to link directly to the various online readings. Assignments in parentheses are recommended—I will explain.

### **CRUCIAL UNIVERSITY DEADLINES**

Last Day to Add (Full-Semester Course):

February 2

Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course):

February 19 (with full tuition penalty)

## **DISABILITY AND HONOR CODE**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

As in all other aspects of community life at George Mason University, the Honor Code applies in this class. The Honor Code can be found online at <http://honorcode.gmu.edu>.

## **CLASS MEETINGS**

**Please note that the schedule may have to be altered in case of weather cancellations or other emergencies. It is the responsibility of the student to be up to date regarding such changes.** There may also be some changes to the readings listed below—you will be notified in advance.

January 21 Introduction

*The Return of Martin Guerre* (movie)

January 28 Telling the Story

Library Orientation, Ms. Melissa Johnson. Meet in Fenwick 214 A at 7:20

Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*

Move ahead with readings

February 4 Evidence, Methods and Theory

Martha Howell & Walter Prevenier, *From Reliable Sources*

Karl Marx, *Capital*, chapter 1 OL

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch01.htm>

Frederick Engels, “Historical Materialism” OL

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/ch03.htm>

February 11 Social History or The Rescue from Condescension

E. P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* PC

E. P. Thompson, “Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century” OL JSTOR  
<http://www.jstor.org.mutex.gmu.edu/stable/650244?&Search=yes&term=moral&term=thompson&term=e.&term=economy&term=crowd&term=english&term=p.&list=hide&searchUri=%2FdoAdvancedSearch%3Fq0%3De.%2Bp.%2Bthompson%26f0%3Dau%26c0%3DAND%26q1%3Dmoral%2Beconomy%2Benglish%2Bcrowd%26f1%3Dti%26c1%3DAND%26q2%3D%26f2%3Dall%26c2%3DAND%26q3%3D%26f3%3Dall%26wc%3Don%26Search%3DSearch%26ar%3Don%26sd%3D%26ed%3D%26la%3D%26jo%3D&item=1&ttl=1&returnArticleService=showArticle>

Suzanne Desan “Crowds, Community and Ritual in the Work of E.P. Thompson and Natalie Zemon Davis” OL ACLS Humanities E-book in *The New Cultural History*  
<http://quod.lib.umich.edu.mutex.gmu.edu/a/acls/author/H.html> and once there go to Hunt, Lynn for a link to the book

February 18 CULTURAL STUDIES/HISTORY COLLOQUIUM—NO CLASS BUT ATTEND COLLOQUIUM  
→→1<sup>ST</sup> ESSAY DUE – SOCIAL HISTORY

February 25 Gender and Sexuality  
Joan Scott, *Gender and the Politics of History*, Part I, OL ACLS  
<http://quod.lib.umich.edu.mutex.gmu.edu/a/acls/author/S.html> and once there go to Scott, Joan Wallach  
  
*Journal of Women's History*, 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue OL Project Muse  
[http://muse.jhu.edu.mutex.gmu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_womens\\_history/toc/jowh20.1.html](http://muse.jhu.edu.mutex.gmu.edu/journals/journal_of_womens_history/toc/jowh20.1.html)  
  
Leonore Davidoff, "Class and Gender in Victorian England" OL JSTOR  
<http://www.jstor.org.mutex.gmu.edu/stable/3177552?&Search=yes&term=leonore&term=davidoff&list=hide&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3Dleonore%2Bdavidoff%26jc%3Dj100418%26wc%3Don%26Search.x%3D16%26Search.y%3D8&item=1&ttl=76&returnArticleService=showArticle>  
  
(Natalie Zemon Davis, "Women on Top" OL ACLS  
<http://quod.lib.umich.edu.mutex.gmu.edu/a/acls/author/D.html> and once there go to Davis, Natalie Zemon)

March 4 Identities: Race, Region and Representations  
Barbara Fields, "Ideology and Race in American History" OL  
<http://www.chss.montclair.edu/english/furr/essays/fieldsidelandrace.html>  
  
Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic* PC  
  
David Rediger, *The Wages of Whiteness* PC  
  
Walter Johnson, "The Slave Trader, the White Slave, and the Politics of Racial Determination in the 1850s" OL JSTOR <http://www.jstor.org.mutex.gmu.edu/stable/2567914>  
  
(Peter Kolchin, "Whiteness Studies: The New History of Race in America" OL JSTOR  
<http://www.jstor.org.mutex.gmu.edu/action/doBasicSearch?Query=peter+kolchin&jc=j100204&wc=on>)

March 11 Spring Break

March 18 Nations, Nationality  
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*  
Edward Said, *Orientalism* PC  
Bernard Cohn, "Representing Authority in Victorian India" PC

March 25 NO CLASS

INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS TO DISCUSS REVIEW ESSAY

→→2<sup>ND</sup> ESSAY DUE – IDENTITIES

April 1 Power, Culture, Language

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Patricia O'Brien, "Michel Foucault's History of Culture," OL ACLS in *The New Cultural History* – access as above for Desan

Joan Scott, "The Evidence of Experience" OL

<http://www.jstor.org.mutex.gmu.edu/stable/1343743?&Search=yes&term=joan&term=scott&list=hide&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3Fquery%3Djoan%2Bscott%26jc%3Dj100489%26wc%3Don&item=1&ttl=86&returnArticleService=showArticle>

April 8 Being an Historian

Geoff Eley, *A Crooked Line*

Natalie Zemon Davis, "A Life of Learning" OL

[http://www.acls.org/Publications/OP/Haskins/1997\\_NatalieZemonDavis.pdf](http://www.acls.org/Publications/OP/Haskins/1997_NatalieZemonDavis.pdf)

Nicolas Eustace, "When Fish Walk on Land: Social History in a Postmodern World" or Paula Fass, "Cultural History/Social History: Some Reflections on a Continuing Dialogue" OL in *Journal of Social History*, Fall 2003 <http://www.jstor.org.mutex.gmu.edu/stable/i292627>

→→REVIEW ESSAY TOPIC STATEMENT DUE

April 15 Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States*

April 22 Matthew D. Lassiter, *The Silent Majority: Suburban Politics in the Sunbelt South*

→→REVIEW ESSAY PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

April 29 Bethany Moreton, *To Serve God and Wal-Mart: The Making of Christian Free Enterprise*

→→3<sup>RD</sup> ESSAY DUE – DOING HISTORY; CULTURE

May 11 → → Review Essay due email to dcopelma@gmail.com