

HISTORY 741 – HISTORIOGRAPHY

Dr. McDonald

Thursdays 9:30 - 12:30 in CNH 614

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Course and Aims

History 741 is designed to familiarize graduate students with some of the major schools of historical thinking and methodology in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Email Policy

It is the policy of the Faculty of Humanities that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. Instructors will delete emails that do not originate from a McMaster email account.

Support Services

The University provides a variety of support services to help students manage their many demands. Reference librarians can provide invaluable research assistance. The Centre for Student Development (CSD) provides assistance with personal as well as academic matters. MUSC B107 and <http://csd.mcmaster.ca>

Late Penalty and Absences

There is a late penalty of 3% per day for all late assignments. Extensions or other accommodations will be determined by the instructor and will only be considered if supported by appropriate documentation. Absences of less than 5 days may be reported using the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) at www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/. If you are unable to use the MSAF, you should document the absence with your faculty office. In all cases, it is YOUR responsibility to follow up with the instructor immediately to see if an extension or other accommodation will be granted, and what form it will take. There are NO automatic extensions or accommodations.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a Notation on the transcript (Notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is Not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. Failure to adequately acknowledge the sources used in essays is plagiarism
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Changes to the syllabus

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable Notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to Note any changes.

Required Books:

Green, Anna and Troup, Kathleen. *The Houses of History*. New York: New York University Press, 1999.

Bloch, Marc. *The Historian's Craft: Reflections on the Nature and Uses of History and the Techniques and Methods of Those Who Write It* (any edition).

Coleman, Jon T. *Vicious: Wolves and Men in America*. Yale University Press, 2004.

Cronon, William ed. *Uncommon Ground*. New York: Norton, 1995.

Foucault, Michel. *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*. Vintage, 1988.

A Note on Articles

I have avoided a Coursepack . Any of the articles that are chapters in books can be found online as a pdf via a quick search. I have all of them so if there are any that are no longer available, please email me and I will send it out to the group.

A Note on Readings

Read each week's selections in *chronological order*.

Course Requirements:

Task	MAs	PhDs	Due
Participation	25%	20%	ongoing
Facilitation	5%	5%	rolling
Critical Review	15%	20% (2 X 10)	26 Oct or 9 Nov. 2017
Journal Assignment	20%	20%	30 Nov. 2017
Final Exam	35%	35%	7 Dec. 2017

Participation and Attendance:

This course is a seminar and will be more interesting for you and for all of your colleagues only if you do the readings closely each week and come prepared to debate and discuss them.

Assignments

Facilitation

Each week, one or more students (depending on our number) will be asked to raise a questions and refer to select passages from the week's readings for discussion by the group. The students are then responsible, along with me, for leading the discussion for that week.

Note: In the week that you are a presenter, you should be one of the most active discussants in conjunction with keeping the discussion moving and on track.

Critical Review

MA Students:

You can choose to do a critical review of *either* Foucault, *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason* *or* Cronon, *Uncommon Ground*. The review should be a maximum of 1500 words. You are being asked to write the kind of book review that would appear in an academic journal. No not summarize the book, rather review and critically assess the work. They are both very challenging books for very different reasons. Cronon's is an edited collection so you will have to figure out how to talk about the best pieces in the collection and how they tie together. Foucault's book is a difficult and challenging read. His prose is dense to say the least.

Note: Because we will be discussing the book in class, all reviews MUST BE handed in at the start of the class in which we discuss the work. I cannot accept a late review if you are present for the discussion.

PhD Students:

PhD students will write critical reviews of *both* Foucault, *Madness and Civilization* *and* Cronon, *Uncommon Ground*.

Journal Assignment

This assignment asks you to analyze the evolution of historiographical practice in a single historical journal (chosen in consultation with the instructor) over the publishing life of the journal. The paper should contextualize the journal within the themes and issues of the course, and consider the goals, character, and changing contents of the journal. The paper should be **no longer than 3000 words (MA students) and 4000 words (PhD students)**. Given the word limit, pay special attention to being concise in your analysis and succinct in your writing.

Final Exam

You are responsible for all of the major themes of the course on the final exam. The exam is **2 hours for MA students and 3 hours for PhD students**. You will be given a number of questions in advance and the exam questions will be drawn from those.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

Week 1 – Thursday 14 September – Introductions

Assign Facilitators for Discussions

Week 2 – Thursday 21 September – The Empiricists

Green and Troup, *Houses of History*, pp. 1-46

E.H. Carr, *What is History* (available online as a pdf)

PhD. Additional

Novick, Peter. *That Noble Dream*

Week 3 – Thursday 28 September – The Annales

Green and Troup, *Houses of History*, pp. 106-130

Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*

PhD. Additional

Ladurie, *Montaillou: The Promised Land of Error*
Bloch, *French Rural History*

Week 4 – Thursday 5 October – The Marxists

Green and Troup, *Houses of History*, pp. 47-71

Marx, chapter on History from *The German Ideology*
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/ch01a.htm#p41>

E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* (1963) – entire book easily downloadable as a PDF – read preface

Oscar J. Hammen, “Marx and the Agrarian Question,” *American Historical Review* 77 (1972), 679-704.

Eric Hobsbawm, “Marx and History,” *New Left Review* 1/143 (January-February 1984): 39-50

Scott, James C. “Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance.” *Journal of Peasant Studies* Vol 13 Issue 2 (January 1986): 5-35.

PhD. Additional

Stedman Jones, *Languages of Class* (1983).

Week 5 – Thursday 12 October – Anthropology

Green and Troup, *Houses of History*, pp. 198-232

Robert Finlay, “The Refashioning of Martin Guerre,” *American Historical Review*, Vol. 93, No. 3 (June, 1988): 553-571.

Natalie Davis, “On the Lame,” *American Historical Review*, Vol. 93, No. 3 (June, 1988): 572-603.

Interview with Carlo Ginzburg
<http://mahindrahumanities.fas.harvard.edu/news/interview-2015-tanner-lecturer-carlo-ginzburg-matthew-collins>

Interview with Carlo Ginzburg, “On Rescuing Voices and Self-Description Under Constraints,” *Ab Imperio* 1 (2006): 23-38.

PhD. Additional

Davis, *Return of Martin Guerre*
Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*

Week 6 – Thursday 19 October – Gender

Green and Troup, *Houses of History*, pp. 262-288.

Joan Scott, “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis,” *The American Historical Review* Vol. 91, No. 5 (December 1986): 1053-1075.

Gisela Bock, “Women’s History and Gender History: Aspects of an International Debate” *Gender & History* 1:1 (1989): 7-30.

Judith Bennett, “Feminism and History,” *Gender History* 1 (1989): 251-272.

John Tosh, “What Should Historians Do with Masculinity?” *History Workshop Journal* No. 38 (1994): 179-202.

PhD. Additional

Walkowitz, *City of Dreadful Delight*

Week 7 – Thursday 26 October – Poststructuralism

Green and Troup, *Houses of History*, pp. 289-319

Foucault, *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*.

Critical Review Due today at the start of class

Week 8 – Thursday 2 November – Postcolonial

Green and Troup, *Houses of History*, pp. 320-341.

Gyan Prakash, “Writing Post-Orientalist Histories of the Third World: Perspectives from Indian Historiography,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 32 (1990), 383-408

Stuart Hall, “When was the “Post-Colonial”? Thinking at the Limit,” in Iain Chambers and Lidia Curti (eds), *The Post-Colonial Question: Common Skies, Divided Horizons* (NY, 1996): 242-260. (There are a number of pdfs online if you search the title.)

John M. Mackenzie, “Edward Said and the Historians,” in Patrick Williams, *Edward Said*, Vol. 3 (London: Sage, 2001), 127-143. (There are a number of pdfs online if you search the title.)

Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg (eds.) *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture* (Urbana, 1988): 271-313. (There are a number of pdfs online if you search the title. And they may come from another volume with different pagination)

PhD. Additional

Said, *Orientalism*

Week 9 – Thursday 9 November – No class

McDonald away at conference. Discuss makeup class.

Week 10 – Thursday 16 November – Environmental History

Cronon ed. *Uncommon Ground*. New York: Norton, 1995.

Critical Review Due today at the start of class

Week 11 – Thursday 23 November – Animal History

Coleman, *Vicious: Wolves and Men in America* (Yale University Press, 2004).

Week 12 – Thursday 30 November – Journal Essay Due – No class meeting

Week 13 – Thursday 7 December – Final Exam

Makeup Class

Green and Troup, *Houses of History*, pp. 403-436

Peter N. Stearns and Carol Z. Stearns, "Emotionology: Clarifying the History of Emotions and Emotional Standards," *American Historical Review* 90 (1985): 813-836.

Jan Plamper, "The History of Emotions: An Interview with William Reddy, Barbara Rosenwein, and Peter Stearns," *History and Theory* 49 2 (May 2010): 237-265

AHR Conversation: The Historical Study of Emotions *American Historical Review* 117 5 (2012): 1487-1531.

PhD. Additional

Reddy, *Navigation of Feeling*