

HIS 5059: Graduate Historical Methods

Dr. Erin Stone

Spring 2016

Office: 50/112

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 1:00-2:00; Tuesday 10:30-11:30

**And by appointment

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Class Location:

Room 11/122

Hours: Tuesday 2:30-5:15

Course Description:

Even though history is the study of the past, recent developments have begun to revolutionize how historians access and analyze their sources. This course begins by discussing the development of the study and theory of history. We will then move forward to consider new approaches to history. From anthropological theory and material cultural to the use of GIS and digital archives to arrive at a more complex conclusion, we will delve into the many different ways to access the past. Through the use of digital archives we will then learn how to read the oldest sources through the art of paleography. Students will then be able to use all of these skills and resources to conduct their own research, both as current Masters students and perhaps as future PhD students.

List of Topics: exploration, discovery, colonization, war, cultural sharing, slavery, race, economics, gender, theory, archival methods.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Examine the history and theories of the discipline of History.
- Learn the new methods of historical study from GIS to Paleography.
- Apply critical thinking and writing skills through class discussions, presentations, book reviews, and a historiographic essay.
- Become familiar with secondary and primary sources and be able to engage in larger historiographical debates.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

-Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, ISBN 978-1844670864 (Revised Edition from 2006)

-David Cannadine, *What is History Now?*, ISBN 978-1403933362

-Michel Foucault, *Madness and Civilization*, ISBN 978-0679721109

-Alan Gally, *Indian Slavery in Colonial America*, ISBN 978-0803268494

-Jill Lepore, *The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity*, ISBN 978-0375702624

-Marshall Sahlins, *Islands of History*, ISBN 978-0226733586
-William H. Sewell, Jr., *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformations*, ISBN 978-0226749181
-Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*, ISBN 978-0807043110

Additional Short Readings will be available online or distributed in class

GRADING: Class Discussion/Participation 30% (10% from leading disc)
Book Reviews 20%
Research Paper 50% (5% proposal and 5% presentation)

Class Policies:

Attendance: Attending class is crucial to both your intellectual and academic success in this class. You need to come to class daily and participate, especially because this is a graduate class where the class rests heavily on your active participation and engagement. If attendance/participation appears to be dwindling I reserve the right to give pop quizzes on the reading.

Classroom Decorum: Proper, adult behavior is expected and required in class. If I or one of your classmates are speaking you expected to listen, and respect the opinion being expressed. Turn off your cell phones upon entering the room; if your cell phone rings I reserve the right to answer the call. Do not be more than 10 minutes late for class, it not only prevents you from gaining all that you can from the course, but distracts me and your fellow classmates as well. If you must leave class early, please let me know in advance and sit near the door to minimize disruption. There is no eating or smoking (including e-cigarettes) in class.

Class Preparation: You need to be prepared for each class by reading whatever material was assigned for that day and by bringing your book to class with you to help in discussion and note taking.

Academic Conduct and Plagiarism Statement:

The [Student Code of Conduct](#) (PDF) sets forth the rules, regulations, and expected behavior of students enrolled at the University of West Florida. Violations of any rules, regulations, or behavioral expectations may result in a charge of violating the Student Code of Conduct. It is the student's responsibility to read the Student Code of Conduct and comply with these expectations. The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) (2009) defines various forms of academic misconduct and describes the procedures an instructor should follow when he or she suspects that a student has violated the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Student Disability Resource Center Statement:

The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of

non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with the [Student Disability Resource Center](#) (SDRC). Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, e-mail sdrc@uwf.edu or call 850.474.2387.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

January 5: Introduction to the Course

**Reading: Herodotus, *The Histories*, Book 1 and Carr's *What is History?* Chapt. 1 and 4
<http://classics.mit.edu/Herodotus/history.html>

January 12: The State of History and does History have a theory?

**Cannadine's *What is History Now?* and Sewell Chapter 1

January 19: Writing Historiographies

**Wall, "Confessions of a British North Americanist," Usner, "Borderlands," Haber, "Mexico's "New" Cultural History," and Bailey, Phillips, and Voigt, "Spain and Spanish America in the Early Modern Atlantic World"

**Proposals for final project due (distribute to class by Sunday at midnight)

January 26: Social History (First Discussion Leaders)

**Sewell Chap 2, EP Thompson's "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century," *Past and Present* 50 (1971) 76-136, and part of James Scott's *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts*

February 2: The Annalist School and Microhistory

**Ginzburg's *The Cheese and the Worms* and Fernand Braudel, "The Longue Durée" in *On History*.

February 9: The Linguistic Turn

**Michel Foucault, *Madness and Civilization*

February 16: Cultural History

**Sewell chap 5 and part of Clifford Geertz's *Interpretations of Cultures*

February 23: Historical Anthropology or Anthropological History?

**Sahlins's *Islands of History* and Sewell Chapters 7-8

March 1: Ethnohistory and Agency?

**Gallay's *Indian Slavery in Colonial America*, Sewell 4, and Trouillot "The Power in the Story"

**Book Review of Gallay due

March 8: National Histories

**Anderson's *Imagined Communities* and part of Said's *Orientalism*

March 15: Spring Break

March 22: Discovering Identities

**Lepore, *Name of War* and Sidbury, "Mapping Ethnogenesis in the Early Modern Atlantic"

**Review of Lepore due

March 29: Primary Source Databases/ Digital Archives source day

**Review of primary source due & Presentation of Archive

April 5: GIS, Paleography, and Publishing

**Research a journal in which you would like to publish

April 12: Writing effective CVs and Cover Letters

April 19: Presentations and work shopping papers

April 26: Final papers due by 5pm