9-2014

HSTR 401.01: The Great Historians

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Objectives of the Course:

For two-and-one-half millennia, the writing of history has been one of the defining features of Western civilization. In this course, we survey the master work of Western historians from the ancient Greeks to the present day, noting this intellectual tradition’s abiding concerns as well as its paradigm shifts. In quizzes, examinations, and papers, students will be expected to demonstrate powers of analysis at the upper-division level of university skill.

Required Readings

Herodotus, *The Histories* (Penguin-Putnam) selections
Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War* (Penguin-Putnam) selections
Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome* (Penguin-Putnam) selections
Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades* (Penguin-Putnam) selections
Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (Penguin-Putnam) selections
Friedrich Nietzsche, *Unfashionable Observations* (Stanford University Press) selections
Fritz Stern, *The Varieties of History*, (Vintage) selections

Examinations and Papers

This is a writing course. Students will write a mid-term examination and a final examination. The mid-term will be given on Monday, 13 October, the final on Tuesday, 9 December from 1:10-3:10. Both examinations will have a combination essay and identification question format. The mid-term will be worth 20 percent of the semester grade, the final 40 percent. A ten-page term paper, on a topic to be chosen by each student in consultation with the professor, will be due in class on Friday, 7 November. The term paper will be worth 30 percent of the semester grade. Late papers will be docked one-third of a grade per day. Graduate students who are taking the course for graduate credit must write a twenty-page paper in place of the ten-page undergraduate paper. In addition, there will be a three-page paper on a topic to be announced, due in class on Monday, 15 September, and worth 10 percent of the semester grade. This paper will be evaluated and then handed back to the students, who then will rewrite it in the light of the professor’s criticisms.

Grading Policy
I set great store by students who demonstrate a capacity and eagerness for growth as readers and writers.

For students who take the course on a Pass/Not Pass basis, the minimum grade for a Pass is “C.”

If you take an incomplete in the course, you will have one year in which to finish all requirements before the “I” becomes an “F.” Students should take care of incompletes as soon as possible.

Students who have need of the Disability Services Center should make certain that they are properly registered there. Let me know which special arrangements you will require for the examinations.

I consider plagiarism in any form to be the sin against the Holy Ghost. Please review “The University of Montana Conduct Code” http://www.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf

Classroom Manners

Please come to class on time. I begin lecturing at ten minutes after the hour, and I expect students to be seated by then. I ask you not to eat and drink in class because it is distracting to me and to other students. The classroom is not a bistro, but a place for serious intellectual work and development.

Office Hours

My office hours for the semester are MWF 10:00-11:00 in University Hall 314. If you are not free during my regularly scheduled office hour, please see me about making an appointment for a mutually convenient time. You can reach me by telephone at 2981. My e-mail address is richard.drake@umontana.edu.

Mandatory Public Lectures

In addition to the course lectures, students will be required to attend two events in the President’s Lecture Series. On Monday, 17 November, William Cronon will give the Brennan Guth Memorial Lecture on Environmental Philosophy, “The Riddle of Sustainability: A Surprisingly Short History of the Future.” He is the Frederick Jackson Turner Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin. The lecture will begin at 8:00 P. M. in the Dennison Theatre. On Monday, 1 December, Robert D. English will give the Ezio Cappadocia Memorial Lecture on Politics and History, “Ukraine, Russia, and the West: Crisis, Causes, and Consequences.” He is the Director of the School of International Relations at the University of Southern California. The lecture will begin at 8:00 P.M. in the Dennison Theatre. For those students who have work or family responsibilities in the evening, films will be made available of both lectures.

Lectures and Reading Assignments
**Week 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>25 August</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>27 August</td>
<td>The Emergence of Greek Historiography: To Herodotus</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>29 August</td>
<td>Herodotus, <em>The Histories</em> (Book I, pp. 3-94)</td>
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**Week 2**

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<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>1 September</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>3 September</td>
<td>Herodotus, <em>The Histories</em> (Books VIII-IX, pp. 501-603)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>5 September</td>
<td>The Thucydidean Revolution in Historiography</td>
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**Week 3**

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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>8 September</td>
<td>Thucydides, <em>The Peloponnesian War</em> (See supplementary insert re: Thucydides)</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>10 September</td>
<td>Thucydides, <em>The Peloponnesian War</em> (See supplementary insert re: Thucydides)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>12 September</td>
<td>Greco-Roman Historiography</td>
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**Week 4**

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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>15 September</td>
<td>Tacitus, <em>The Annals of Imperial Rome</em> (See supplementary insert re: Tacitus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>17 September</td>
<td>Tacitus, <em>The Annals of Imperial Rome</em> (See supplementary insert re: Tacitus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>19 September</td>
<td>The Christian Historiographical Revolution: St. Augustine and Medieval Historiography</td>
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**Week 5**

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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>24 September</td>
<td>Joinville and the Chronicle Tradition of the Later Middle Ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>26 September</td>
<td>Italian Renaissance Historians: Leonardo Bruni to Francesco Guicciardini</td>
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Week 6

M  29 September  The Spread of Humanism and the Impact of the Protestant Reformation on Historiography
W  1 October    The Impact of the Scientific Revolution on Historiography
F  3 October    Historiography in the Age of the Enlightenment: History as the Progress of Mankind—Voltaire (Stern, pp. 35-45)

Week 7

M  6 October    Dissent from Progress: Vico
W  8 October    Edward Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (Chapters 1-6, pp. 31-186)
F  10 October   Review

Week 8

M  13 October   Midterm Examination
W  15 October   The French Revolution and Historiography: Alexis De Tocqueville
F  17 October   Historiography in the Romantic Age: Thomas Carlyle (Stern, pp. 90-107)

Week 9

M  20 October   The Rise of German Historiography: Hegel
W  22 October   Karl Marx: To *The German Ideology* (Stern, pp. 145-158)
F  24 October   The Later Marx

Week 10

M  27 October   Traditional Historiography after Marx: Leopold von Ranke (Stern, pp. 54-62)
W  29 October   Jacob Burckhardt and Cultural History
F 31 October Cultural History after Burckhardt (Stern, pp. 289-303, 371-386, 387-402)

Week 11

M 3 November Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

W 5 November Karl Mannheim

F 7 November The Annales School (Stern, pp. 403-429)

*Term Paper due on this date*

Week 12

M 10 November The Frankfurt School

W 12 November Social History (Stern, pp. 430-455)

F 14 November Antonio Gramsci and Hegemony Theory

Week 13

M 17 November The Annales School (Stern, pp. 403-429)

W 19 November Friedrich Nietzsche “On the Utility and Liability of History for Life”

F 21 November Prophets of Extremity: Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida

Week 14

M 24 November The American Historiographical Tradition: From the Puritans to Frederick Jackson Turner (Stern, pp. 197-208)

W 26 November Thanksgiving Day Holiday

F 28 November Thanksgiving Day Holiday

Week 15

M 1 December The American Historiographical Tradition: Charles
Beard and the Progressive Era (Stern, pp. 314-328 and pp. 359-370)

W  3 December  The American Historiographical Tradition: Recent Trends
F  5 December  Conclusions and Review

Final Examination: Tuesday, 9 December 1:10-3:10

Thucydides Readings

For Monday 11 September

Book I
  Introduction
  The Dispute over Corcyra
  The Debate at Sparta and Declaration of War
  The Spartan Ultimatum and Pericles’ Reply

Book II
  Pericles’ Funeral Oration
  The Plague
  The Policy of Pericles

Book III
  The Mytilenian Debate
  Civil War in Corcyra

For Wednesday 13 September

Book V
  The Melian Dialogue

Book VI
  Sicilian Antiquities
  Alcibiades in Sparta

Book VII
  Destruction of the Athenian Expedition

Book VIII
  Alarm at Athens
  The Oligarchic Coup

Tacitus Readings

For Monday 18 September
Part One
Chapter 1  From Augustus to Tiberius
Chapter 2  Mutiny on the Frontiers
Chapter 3  War with the Germans
Chapter 7  ‘Partner of My Labours’
Chapter 8  The Reign of Terror

For Wednesday 20 September

Part Two
Chapter 9  The Fall of Messalina
Chapter 10  The Mother of Nero
Chapter 12  Nero and His Helpers
Chapter 14  The Burning of Rome
Chapter 15  The Plot