

HIST 583-000: Intro.Advance Historical Study

Complete Course Title: Introduction to Advanced Historical Study

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Strocchia	TH	1:00 – 4:00 pm	12

Semester Description:

What does it mean to research and write history? How do we “know” the past? Answering these questions involves considering strategies of investigation, interpretation, and explanation, and understanding those strategies requires articulating methods and appropriating theoretical perspectives. This course, designed for incoming Ph.D. students, is devoted to reflection upon the practices in which we engage as historians. Over the course of the semester, we will study some of the influential books, authors, and paradigms that continue to animate and shape historical research today. We will also consider some recent, especially imaginative historical works. In each case, our primary purpose is to become more aware of what often remains implicit and unexamined: the preconceptions about research and presentation that precede our trips to the archives and hours at the writing-table. We aim to take stock of how leading figures in the profession have wrestled with issues of historical investigation, analysis, and interpretation.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

1. Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Revised Edition. Verso Books. 2006.
ISBN: 978-1844670864.
2. Eugene Genovese, *Roll Jordan Roll: The World the Slaves Made*. Vintage Books. 1976.
ISBN: 978-0394716527.
3. George Fredrickson, *Racism: A Short History*. Princeton University Press. 2003.
ISBN: 978-0691116525
4. Deborah Lipstadt, *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier*. Harper Perennial, reprint edition. 2006.
ISBN: 978-0060593773
5. J.R. McNeill, *Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1620-1914*. Cambridge University Press. 2010.
ISBN: 978-0521-45910-5
6. Lyndal Roper, *Witch Craze: Terror and Fantasy in Baroque Germany*. Yale University Press. 2004.
ISBN: 978-0300-119831

Fall 2014

7. Other readings will be available on e-reserve.

Grading:

- Class participation (40%);
- 2 ten-page papers (30% each).