Fall 2013

HIST 583-000: Introduction to Advanced Historical Study

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<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Day(s)</th>
<th>Time(s)</th>
<th>Maximum Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1:00 – 4:00 pm</td>
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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:


**Recommended Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:**


**Grading:**

There will be two writing assignments due over the course of the semester. Each involves an essay of roughly 10 pages. First, in the middle of the term, you will do an analysis and a meta-analysis of a primary source. Second, you will write a review essay discussing two historical works (two books or the equivalent, such as a book and a set of articles). It will be due on the last day of class. Course evaluation will be based on these two writing assignments plus class participation, each weighted at one-third.