HIST 585-007: Special Topics in History:
(cross-listed with ICIVS 710-000)

Topic: Historiography of Islam

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<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Day(s)</th>
<th>Time(s)</th>
<th>Maximum Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cornell</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>3:00 – 6:00 pm</td>
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Semester Description:

This course is an advanced graduate-level introduction to historiography as applied to the study of Islam and Islamic Civilizations Studies. The course is divided into two parts. The first half of the course is an introduction to major theoretical approaches in historiography, particularly as they can be applied to Middle Eastern and South Asian societies. This section of the course will cover the most prominent theoretical approaches to historiography; however, it will focus in particular on what Hayden White has called the “New Historicism” or what Elizabeth A. Clark has called the “linguistic turn” in contemporary historiography. Students will be introduced to some of the most important historiographical theorists since the middle of the twentieth century. These include R. G. Collingwood, Marc Bloch and the Annales historians, Marshall G. S. Hodgson and global civilization history, Jan Vansina and the historiography of oral tradition, theorists of subaltern studies such as Dipesh Chakrabarty, and history-as-narrative theorists such as Hayden White and Michel de Certeau. The second part of the course will examine critically the historical study of Islam and Islamic civilization. In this part of the course, students will become familiar with current approaches to the historiography of Islam by Western historians. Special attention will be given to major historiographical problems in the field. This half of the course will also examine historiographical methods used by selected Muslim historians to study their own history. Selected studies of major Muslim historians of the pre-modern period will be examined as case studies in historiographical methods.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

5. Jenkins, Keith, *Re-Thinking History*.
7. Vansina, Jan, *Oral Tradition as History*. 
Fall 2013

Grading:

Students will be graded on class participation (25%), a critical written review of a major work on historiographical theory or a theoretical approach to Islamic history (25%) and an end-of-term research paper of 20-30 pages (50%). The research paper will require students to apply a current methodology of historiographical theory to a problematical issue in the history of Islam or Islamic civilization.

Pulled from the Fall 2013 Graduate Division of Religion Course Atlas.