

HIST 583-1: Intro.Advance Historical Study

Intro.Advance Historical Study (OPUS title)

Introduction to Advanced Historical Study (complete course title)

| Instructor | Day(s) | Time(s) | Maximum Enrollment |
|------------|--------|----------------|--------------------|
| Strocchia | M | 4:30 – 7:30 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 in History, 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.

Topics to be considered include: problems of historical scale and the use of local and global vantage points; issues of historical objectivity; the use of analytical categories such as class, race, gender, nation, and ethnicity; the implications of organizing principles such as power, agency, memory, and subjectivity; trauma and historical memory; the “material” turn, sensory history and the history of emotions; and the transformative impact of digital tools on historical scholarship. Please note that enrollment is limited to first-year graduate students in the Department of History.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

1. Timothy Brook, *Vermeer’s Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World*. (reprint edition 2008).
ISBN: 978-1596915992.
2. George Frederikson, *Racism: A Short History*. Princeton University Press. 2003.
ISBN: 978-0691116525.
3. E. Natalie Rothman, *Brokering Empire: Trans-Imperial Subjects between Venice and Istanbul*.
ISBN: 978-0801479960.
4. Michel-Rolf Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. (20th anniversary edition).
ISBN: 978-0807080535.

Fall 2017

Grading:

Class participation, including weekly electronic posts; two ten-page papers. No examinations.