

Professor Michael R. Drompp

Clough Hall 309

843 – 3655

Office Hours: W 1:30 – 3:00, Th 1:00 – 2:30, and by appointment

HISTORY 485: SENIOR SEMINAR IN HISTORY

PR hour (Tuesdays, 2:40 – 5:40 PM)

Clough Hall 300

Required texts for purchase:

Cohen, Paul A. *History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience, and Myth*

Davis, Natalie Zemon. *The Return of Martin Guerre*

Ginzburg, Carlo. *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller*

Green, Anna and Kathleen Troup, eds. *The Houses of History: A Critical Reader in Twentieth-Century History and Theory*

Holt, Thomas. *Black over White: Negro Political Leadership in South Carolina during Reconstruction*

Huang, Ray. *1587, A Year of No Significance: The Ming Dynasty in Decline*

Parenti, Michael. *History as Mystery*

Ulrich, Laura Thatcher. *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785 – 1812*

This seminar is an examination of important themes, issues, and theoretical approaches in the study and writing of history, as seen through selected representative works drawn from diverse fields of historical investigation. Emphasis will be on reading and discussion, with both written reactions/analyses and oral presentations required.

Requirements for the course include:

1. regular class attendance and alert, thoughtful participation
2. clear evidence of thoughtful, serious reading of assigned materials as shown through classroom discussion and writing assignments
3. seven essays (6-7 pp. each) in response to assigned readings (see below)
4. oral presentation of three such essays
5. one take-home final examination due at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, 2 May 2001
6. additional work as assigned

This course is a seminar. As such, classroom discussion is vital, and will constitute a significant portion (50%) of the final grade for the course. No unexcused absences will be permitted. Unexcused absences and/or disruptive behavior will result in a lower grade for classroom participation. Excessive absences (i.e., more than 2, excused or not) will result in the student being dropped from the course or in an “F” for the final course grade. The final grade will be based 50% on classroom participation and 50% on written work. **Extra credit will not be permitted.** Note that “W” (Withdrawal) will be given only when the student has followed official withdrawal procedures by the stated deadlines.

All papers (two copies) are due in class at the beginning of the class period. Late work will not be accepted. For papers, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation are essential. Excessive errors will result in a lowering of the grade for that assignment. If you use a computer to write your papers, be certain that you know how to use it before entrusting it with your paper. Always keep a hard copy (a copy on paper) of each draft of your paper. Computer malfunctions are not acceptable excuses for sloppiness or tardiness.

Each of your papers is to be an essay in response to the assigned book for that week. Your essay should consider the book’s methodology and theory. That is, you should identify and critique the author’s method, and also identify and critique (i.e., explore the suitability of) the author’s theoretical approach (insofar as you are able). Each paper should contain a title page with an original and meaningful title, followed by the text of your essay. Your text should be **double-spaced in Times 12 font** (which is this font). Be clear in your statement of each essay’s thesis, and provide data to support it.

All students are expected to abide by the Rhodes honor code. Infractions will be dealt with according to the rules of the College. In your papers, be certain to avoid plagiarism (the use of someone else’s information/material without properly citing the source of that information/material). **You must indicate the sources of your information and ideas through proper citation, whether the source is quoted directly or not.** Failure to do so may result in a grade of “F” for the assignment. Also, be certain to avoid the appearance of collusion in written assignments and the final exam. Extreme instances of similarities in papers or the final exam may result in a lowering of the grade for that assignment.

“The idle mind is a playground for the Devil.”
– Peter Brown

SYLLABUS

The following syllabus tells you which readings are to be completed
PRIOR TO that day's class.

Week 1

Jan. 16 introduction to the course, texts, and participants

Week 2

Jan. 23 case study # 1
READING: Parenti
PAPER DUE

Week 3

Jan. 30 *overture: traditional Greek and Roman historiography*
discussion: tradition and innovation in historical method
READING: Green & Troup, pp. 1-32 & 59-86
Carr, "The Historian and His Facts"
Rutman, "The New Social History in America"
finale: a conversation with Professor Tim Huebner

Week 4

Feb. 6 case study # 2
READING: Huang
PAPER DUE

Week 5

Feb. 13 *overture: traditional Chinese historiography*
discussion: Marxism and history
READING: Green & Troup, pp. 33-58
Medvedev, *The October Revolution*, pp. 3-54
finale: a conversation with Professor Doug Hatfield

Week 6

Feb. 20 case study # 3
READING: Davis
PAPER DUE

Week 7

Feb. 27 *overture: traditional Islamic historiography*
discussion: annales, etc.
READING: Green & Troup, pp. 87-171
Braudel, "Afterthoughts on Material Life"
finale: a conversation with Professor Carolyn Schriber

N.B. There will be no class on Mar. 6 due to the spring recess.

Week 8

Mar. 13 case study # 4
READING: Holt
PAPER DUE

Week 9

Mar. 20 *overture: the Enlightenment and historiography*
discussion: oral history and other narratives
READING: Green & Troup, pp. 204-252
Winn, "Oral History and the Factory Study"
finale: a conversation with Professor Mike LaRosa

Week 10

Mar. 27 case study # 5
READING: Ginzburg
PAPER DUE

Week 11

Apr. 3 *overture: Ranke and Toynbee*
discussion: subaltern studies
 READING: Green & Troup, pp. 172-203 & 253-276
 Mallon, "The Promise and Dilemma of Subaltern Studies"
finale: a conversation with Professor Dee Garceau

Week 12

Apr. 10 case study # 6
 READING: Ulrich
PAPER DUE

Week 13

Apr. 17 *overture: new approaches to Western historiography*
discussion: new theories and their enemies
 READING: Green & Troup, pp. 277-325
 Windschuttle, *The Killing of History*, pp. 69-92 or 185-226
finale: a conversation with Professor Jeff Jackson

Week 14

Apr. 24 case study # 7
 READING: Cohen
PAPER DUE

Exam Week

May 2 Final examination due at 5:00 PM