

SYLLABUS

Senior Seminar: History 485
Rhodes College
Fall 2011
Professor Lynn Zastoupil

Office: 203 Buckman
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:30 (and by appointment)
Telephone: X3654

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will examine some of the important themes and theoretical approaches involved in the study and writing of history. It will introduce students to major historical works by selected leading contemporary historians as well as to certain aspects of the development of historical thinking from the ancient period to the present in both the western and non-western worlds. An advanced seminar, the emphasis will be on reading and discussion, as well as oral presentations and written analyses.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All students must be prepared to discuss all of the assigned readings in an intelligent and informed manner. Since the class meets only once a week and since participation is an essential component of this course, no more than one absence (excused or unexcused) is permitted: those who miss more than one class session will have their final grades reduced by at least one full letter grade; those who are absent more than three times will receive an F for the course. Students will write short essays (1000—1200 words) on each of the major books assigned for this course. These essays are due at the beginning of the class period indicated. Late essays will be penalized. Students will also make an oral presentation on one of the topics from the Green and Troup reader. This presentation will require additional research on the topic under discussion. Presenters are expected to use Powerpoint or present outlines, visual aids and/or handouts to the class when making their presentations. Presentations will be graded on the basis of clarity of ideas, command of the subject, ability to stay within the allotted time, and quality of outline and visual aids/handouts.

Final grades will be determined as follows: class participation - 40%; oral presentation - 10%; essays - 50%.

TEXTBOOKS

Anna Green and Kathleen Troup, eds. The Houses of History
Michael Parenti, History as Mystery
Jorg Fisch, Immolating Women
Natalie Zemon Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre
Harry Stout, Upon the Altar of the Nation
Sara Evans, Personal Politics
Paul Cohen, History in Three Keys
James Laine, Shivaji: Hindu King in Islamic India

COURSE OUTLINE

- Week I (Aug. 30) Introduction and Arranging Presentations
- Week II (Sept. 6) Parenti, History as Mystery; S. Poole, “England’s Last Scene of Crime Execution” (**on Moodle**)
Assignment: Parenti (all) and Poole **Essay Due**
- Week III (Sept. 13) Empirical History
Assignment: Green and Troup, Chpt. 1
Presentations: _____
- Week IV (Sept. 20) Fisch, Immolating Women
Assignment: Fisch (all) **Essay Due**
- Week V (Sept. 27) Marxist History
Assignment: Green and Troup, Chpt. 2
Presentations: _____
- Week VI (Oct. 4) Davis, Return of Martin Guerre
Assignment: Davis (all) **Essay Due**
- Week VII (Oct. 11) Narrative (?) History
Assignment: Green and Troup, Chpt. 8
Presentations: _____
- Week VIII (Oct. 18) **FALL BREAK**
- Week IX (Oct. 25) S. Evans, Personal Politics
Assignment: Evans (all) **Essay Due**
- Week X (Nov. 1) Quantitative History
Assignment: Green and Troup, Chpt. 6
Presentations: _____

Week XI (Nov. 8) P. Cohen, History in Three Keys
Assignment: Cohen (all) **Essay Due**

Week XII (Nov. 15) Oral History
Assignment: Green and Troup, Chpt. 9
Presentations: _____

Week XIII (Nov. 22) H. Stout, Upon the Altar of the Nation
Assignment: Stout (all) **Essay Due**

Week XIV (Nov. 29) Postcolonial History
Assignment: Green and Troup, Chpt. 11
Presentations: _____

Week XV (Dec. 6) J. Laine, Shivaji
Assignment: Laine (all) **Essay Due**