

History 200
Fall 2007
Tu,Th 11am

Dee Garceau-Hagen
Office: 301 Clough
Ofc. Hrs: Th, 2-5pm

The Historian's Craft: Methods and Approaches to Historical Investigation

This course will introduce you to the ways in which professional historians practice their craft. Throughout the semester we will address the basics of historical analysis, argumentation, and critical thinking, as well as writing and presentation skills. In addition, we will explore different methods of historical investigation using a range of primary sources. Workshops are placed throughout the semester, to provide practice in all of these areas. The end product of this course will be an original work of historical scholarship.

Readings:

Richard Marius and Melvin Paige, *A Short Guide to Writing About History* (Pearson, 2005).

Robert Darnton, *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History* (Basic Books, 2000).

Bunny McBride, *Women of the Dawn* (University of Nebraska Press, 1999).

Coursepack: A xeroxed collection of journal articles and primary sources.

Attendance and Deadlines:

Attendance is mandatory at all class meetings. More than two absences will adversely affect your grade in this course. You should make all travel and holiday plans in accordance with the schedule outlined in this syllabus. Airline or carpool arrangements are no excuse for missing classes, deadlines, or exams. Late papers will be penalized one grade for each calendar day late.

Academic Integrity:

All work for this course should be done in accordance with Rhodes' Honor Code. Plagiarism is grounds for an F in the course. Ignorance will not be treated as innocence. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's information or ideas without proper citation. If you wonder whether something should be cited, it probably should. We will review how to do footnotes in the Chicago style, in class. If you have questions about the correct use or citation of materials outside of class, consult Marius.

Information from the internet is extremely variable. Some sites provide excellent online archives of primary sources. Others offer homogenized information that reads like third-rate encyclopedia entries. Therefore, all internet sources must be cleared with me before using them in your research paper or workshop assignments.

Expectations:

This course is a seminar, which means your participation is vital. Come to class, read the assignments, think about the material, and participate in discussions. Be prepared to discuss the assigned readings on the day they are listed.

Begin the practice of questioning your sources: Did the author make a convincing argument? Is there credible evidence to support the argument? Is the writing clear or confusing? Is the piece dull, or too wordy? Is the author’s thinking innovative?

Assignments:

- History Detectives: 5%
- Workshop # 1: 5%
- Workshop # 2: 5%
- Workshop # 3: 5%
- Workshop # 4: 5%
- Research Paper: 25%
- Oral Presentation: 25%
- Class Participation: 25%

COURSE OUTLINE

Th Aug 23 Introduction to the Course

Assignment: History Detectives

Tu Aug 28 Public Spaces and the Construction of Memory

Student Reports on History Detective assignments.

Reading: Marius, “Basic Principles for History Essays,” *A Short Guide*, pp.11-28.

Th Aug 30 Library Research Orientation

Bill Short: Online tour of databases & other research resources

- Tu Sept 4 Primary Sources: The Raw Material of History
- Reading: Marius, "Thinking About History," *A Short Guide*, 29-51.
- Workshop #1:** Census Manuscripts (Butte, Montana, 1900, 1910, 1920).
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- Th Sept 6 Framing Questions and Presenting Evidence
- Reading: Marius, "Description" and "Narrative," *A Short Guide*, 54-64.
- Discussion: Census Evidence: What it Can and Cannot Tell
- Workshop Assignment:** Census manuscripts in the Memphis Public Library Archives
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- Tu Sept 11 Reading Photographs: Edward S. Curtis and the American Indian
- Reading: Gertrude Metcalfe, "The Indian as Revealed in the Curtis Pictures" (1905): 13-19 [Coursepack].
- E.S. Curtis, "A Plea for Haste in making Documentary Records of the American Indian," 163-65. [Coursepack]
- Class time today will be spent in the Barret Library Archives, with reproductions of the Curtis photographs. **Meet at Barret Library.**
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- Th Sept 13 Researching Photographs: The Rest of the Story
- Reading: Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith, "Unlikely Champion: Emma Rose Sansaver, 1884-1925," 179-207. [Coursepack].
- Benjamin Rader, "The Greatest Drama in Indian Life: Experiments in Native American Identity and Resistance at the Haskell Institute Homecoming of 1926," 429-50. [Coursepack]
- Sally Jenkins, "The Team That Invented Football," 60-74. [Coursepack]
- Peter Iverson, "When Indians Became Cowboys," 16-34. [Coursepack]

Tu Sept 18 **Workshop #2: Writing Style**

Reading: Marius, "Argument," *A Short Guide*, 69-74.

Marius, "Simple and Direct Writing," *A Short Guide*, 146-56.

Marius, "Evidence and Quotations," *A Short Guide*, 156-61.

*** Research paper prospectus due.**

Th Sept 20 Traditional Frontier History: Assumptions and Omissions

Reading: Richard Bartlett, "Men, Women, and Families," 344-63.
[Coursepack]

Rosemary and Joseph Agonito, "Resurrecting History's
Forgotten Women: A Case Study from the Cheyenne Indians,"
8-16. [Coursepack]

Tu Sept 25 Investigating Land Plats and Mineral Claims

Reading: Marius, "Exposition," *A Short Guide*, 64-69.

Dee Garceau, "Single Women Homesteaders and the Meanings
of Independence," 1-26. [Coursepack]

Workshop 3: Mineral Claims of Florence McAdow [in-class handouts].

Th Sept 27 Reading Firsthand Narratives: Letters, Diaries, Autobiographies & Memoirs

Reading: Marius, "Primary Sources," *A Short Guide*, 92-98.

Letters from the California Goldrush, 1-21. [Coursepack].

Journals of Henry Bigler, 172-80; and George Cannon, 218-40.
[Coursepack].

Memoir of Bethenia Owens Adair, 173-87. [Coursepack]
Letters of Pauline Williamson, 114-21. [Coursepack]

Linda Hogan, "The Two Lives: An Autobiographical Essay,"
435-49. [Coursepack]

- Tu Oct 2 Group Presentations on the Firsthand Narratives
- Th Oct 4 **No Class. Professor Garceau-Hagen at WHA Conference in Tulsa.**
- Tu Oct 9 Controversies in the History Profession
- Reading: Peter Hoffer, "Falsification: The Case of Michael Belleisles," 141-71. [Coursepack]
- Peter Hoffer, "Plagiarism: The Cases of Stephen Ambrose and Doris Kearns Godwin," 172-207. [Coursepack]
- Th Oct 11 Anthropologist Clifford Geertz and "Thick Description"
- Reading: Robert Darnton, "Worker's Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre of the Rue St. Severin," *The Great Cat Massacre*, 75-106.
- Tu Oct 16 **Fall Break**
- Th Oct 18 Newspaper Reports: "Just the Facts"?
- Reading: *Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman*, "Indian Butchery," (July 11, 1876): 1-2.
- Helena Daily Herald*, "Custer's Disaster on the Little Bighorn," by James Bradley (July 15, 1876): 362-63. [Coursepack]
- New York Herald*, "Interview with Sitting Bull," (Nov. 16, 1877): 579-81. [Coursepack]
- Wooden Leg, "Account of the Battle of the Little Bighorn," (1931): 35-39. [Coursepack]
- Kate Bighead, "She Watched Custer's Last Battle," 363-78. [Coursepack]
- Workshop #4:** Analysis of a Newspaper Account/Firsthand Narrative of one Event. [Memphis Room at Memphis Public Library]
- Tu Oct 23 Group Presentations on Newspaper Reports as Evidence

On your own, view film, “Dances With Wolves” before Thursday.

Th Oct 25 Critiquing ‘History’ Films: The Case of “Dances With Wolves”

Reading: Richard White, “The Winning of the West: The Expansion of the Western Sioux in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries,” 243-57.

Dan Flores, “Bison Ecology and Bison Diplomacy: The Southern plains from 1800 to 1850,” 465-85.

Tu Oct 30 Individual Consultations on Research Papers

Th Nov 1 **Research Paper due.** Lecture, “Effective Use of Power Point in Presentations.”

Tu Nov 6 Government Documents

Reading: “The Treaty of Fort Laramie, 1851” [Coursepack].

Raymond DeMallie, “Touching the Pen: Plains Indian Treaty Councils in Ethnohistorical Perspective,” 344-55. [Coursepack]

Th Nov 8 Student Presentations of Original Research

Tu Nov 13 Student Presentations of Original Research

Th Nov 15 Student Presentations of Original Research

Tu Nov 20 Student Presentations of Original Research

Tu Nov 27 Controlled Speculation

Reading: Bunny McBride, *Women of the Dawn*, Introduction, xi-xii, and Chapters 1 and 2, pp.1-68.

Th Nov 29 Finding the Dramatic Core

Reading: Bunny McBride, *Women of the Dawn*, Chapters 3 and 4, pp.69-134; and “Methodology and References,” 135-44.

Tu Dec 4 Guest Presentation: Amy Oakes, Office of Career Services: “What Can You Do with a History Degree?”