Introduction to Historical Inquiry

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Class meets W 9:00 am -12:00 pm in GAR 1.122

Course Description
This course is designed to introduce all incoming history graduate students to a variety of theoretical, methodological, or historiographical approaches to historical research and analysis. Readings will represent a range of approaches and the course will introduce students to research and teaching resources. The seminar will require all of us (instructors included!) to stretch considerably beyond our own areas of expertise and interest. We will be concerned less with the specific historical findings of the works we read than with their frameworks, concepts, theoretical assumptions, and research methods.

Evaluation & Grading
Assessment Project 25% (due 9/21, 10/5, 10/12)  
Book Review * 25% (due 11/30)  
Document Essay* 25% (due 10/19)  
Participation 25%

*At the end of term, we will selected one of these assignments for revision and submission for the consideration of the editors at Not Even Past (https://notevenpast.org), the History Department’s website.

Texts (all materials are required)
The books are available for purchase at the UT COOP and other sellers. Articles and chapters will be posted on Canvas. Many books are also be available as ebooks through the University of Texas Libraries website.


**Course Policies and Participation**

Full participation in class discussion is a requirement in this and all graduate classes, and it is graded accordingly. You are expected to attend every class, to come prepared with ideas and questions about each week’s readings, to connect present readings with previous assignments, and to engage one another with respect, curiosity, and open minds. Your participation grade will be based on attendance, discussion contributions, preparation, intellectual level of interventions, ability to make arguments and substantive critiques.

**Discussion Leadership**

Each week, two of you will be responsible for leading the colloquium discussion. We will sort out who’s responsible for which week during our first class meeting. The co-leaders are responsible for making sure each week’s discussion clarifies and explores the central arguments (there may be several). Once the group has covered the basics, the leaders can guide the discussion in other directions; you can ask about sources, archives, or methods, think of questions you might pose the author, and/or connect with earlier readings and discussions. The point is to generate discussion that is helpful, probing, and stimulating!

**Students with Disabilities**

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. [http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd). It is essential that you inform Services for Students with Disabilities and ourselves in the beginning of term so we can make appropriate accommodations.

**Attendance and Religious Holy Days:** If you must miss a class or an assignment for religious observance, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence. Please keep us informed of anticipated conflicts.
Schedule of Classes
(subject to change)

Week 1
8/24
• Introduction to the course
• Perry-Castañeda Library workshop (led by Shiela Winchester) Meet in Learning Lab 2 in the PCL Learning Commons, 10:45-11:45 am.

Week 2 Pedagogy/Modern Europe
8/31
• Discussion, Jacques Rancière, *The Ignorant Schoolmaster*
• Complete Primary/Secondary Quizzes (Parts 1 & 2), Discussion of Team Projects, Assignment of Teams

Week 3 Social and Economic History/United States
9/7
• Discussion, Ed Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism*

Week 4 Archives/Harry Ransom Center
9/14
• 9-10:15 am Discussion, Carolyn Steedman, *Dust: The Archive and Cultural History*
• 10:45-noon HRC workshop (led by Elizabeth Garver), Denius Seminar Room 10:45-noon.

Week 5 Book Discussion with Author/Modern Latin America
9/21
• Author-led discussion, Seth Garfield, *In Search of the Amazon.*
• Assessment Presentations Groups 1 and 2.

Week 6 Lara Putnam Workshop
9/28
• 9-10:30 am Talk: "An Immersive Turn?: The Value Proposition of History in the Age of Digital Search."
• 11-12 pm: Meeting with our group on 4th floor.

Week 7 Seeing the Past: Photography and History - Professor David Crew
10/5
• 9-10:30 Guest Professor David Crew
• Readings (posted on Canvas):

- Assessment Presentations Groups 3 and 4.

**Week 8  History in Small Places/Social History/Family/Early Modern Europe**
10/12
- Discussion, Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*
- Assessment Presentations Groups 5 and 6.

**Week 9  Historians and the Public Sphere: Professor Joan Neuberger**
10/19
- Readings TBA
- Document essay due in class.

**Week 10  History and Violence/Modern Latin America: Professor Gema Santamaria**
10/26
- The international job search, Professor Gema Santamaria, Instituto Tecnologico Autonomo de Mexico and Matias Romero Visiting Scholar at UT.
- Discussion, Federico Finchelstein, *The Ideological Origins of the Dirty War*

**Week 11  Professionalization/The First Book/Africa**
11/2
- Discussion, Matthew Heaton, *Black Skin, White Coats*
- 10:30-11:30 am: Sara Saylor, The UT Writing Center, (Meet in Learning Lab 2 in the PCL Learning Commons).

**Week 12  History in Big Places/Commodities, Economic/Global)**
11/9
- Discussion, Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton*

**Week 13  Social and Political History/East Asia**
11/16
- Discussion, Elizabeth Perry, *Anyuan: Mining China's Revolutionary Tradition*

**Week 14**
11/23
- Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class

**Week 15**
11/30
- Final discussion