

History 2800: Introduction to Historical Thought

T, TR 3:55-5:15 Enarson Classroom Bldg rm. 0204

Instructor: David J. Staley

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-4:00

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Course Objectives

This course, designed for students planning to major in history, presents some of the main elements of historical methodology: how historians do their work. We will study how historians gather information, organize and analyze their data, and represent their research and conclusions. Students will gain experience dealing with primary and secondary historical sources, interpreting events within their historical context, and developing a comparative understanding of historical phenomenon. In addition, students will learn more about how the past influences today's society and how our present affects our understanding of the past. This course is a required course for all History majors.

Texts (Available in SBX)

John Tosh, *The Pursuit of History* (5th edition)

ISBN: 978-0582894129

Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*

ISBN: 978-0807043110

Assignments

1) Attendance: worth 10% of the final grade: This is a simple percentage of classes attended. So, if you attend 85% of the classes, you receive an 85%

2) Participation: worth 25% of the final grade: This class is organized as a workshop/seminar, and so student participation is essential. This score reflects your leadership of class discussion, evidence of having read assigned materials, satisfactorily completing in-class assignments, and the quality of your contributions to the discussion.

3) Creating an archive: worth 15% of the final grade: Locate, identify, and collect at least 20 objects in your archive, noting that you are making a collection that will be of value to future researchers of an historic event. Write a brief summary (250-500 words)

that answers these questions: Why did you select the materials that you did? What kinds of materials did you exclude? Why?

4) History and Wikipedia: worth 15% of the final grade: Compare and contrast an article that appears in Wikipedia and in another history reference work. No more than 1000 words.

5) Digital history project: worth 15% of the final grade: Using Vuvox Collage, create a digital collage/mural that combines still images, moving images and text to make an historical argument or to convey a narrative. Write a 250-word “artist’s statement” that explains your narrative and the choices you made.

5) Final essay: worth 20% of the final grade: A 1500-word (maximum) essay that answers your choice of questions that explores ideas and themes explored this semester in the readings and class discussions. Due during the final examination time.

Grading scale: We will use the OSU standard grading scale:

A (93-100) A- (90-92)

B+ (87-89) B (83-86) B- (80-82)

C+ (77-79) C (73-76) C- (70-72)

D+ (67-69) D (60-66)

E 0-59

Schedule (subject to revision)

8/22 Introductions

8/27 History and the past

8/29 History and the past

9/3 Historical awareness (Tosh, Chapter 1)

9/5 Mapping the field (Tosh, Chapter 3)

9/10 How primary sources are produced

9/12 Analyzing historical documents (Tosh 4)

9/17 Reading from Sam Wineburg on “Historical Thinking”

9/19 Analyzing primary sources

9/24 Using the sources, (Tosh, Chapter 5)

9/26 What is an archive? Visit to the OSU Archives

10/1 reading on archives

10/3 **Create an archive**

10/8 Preserving memory
10/10 Writing history (Tosh, Chapter 6)
10/15 Film in history
10/17 Comparing historical narratives
10/22 book reviews
10/24 Video games and history
10/29 **History and Wikipedia**
10/31 designing digital murals
11/5 The uses of history (Tosh, chapter 2)
11/7 The limits of historical knowledge (Tosh chapter 7)
11/12 Approaches to history (Tosh, Chapters 8-11)
11/14 **Digital Mural projects**
11/19 Trouillot (preface, chapter 1)
11/21 Trouillot (chapter 2 and 3)
11/26 Trouillot (chapter 4)
12/3 Trouillot (chapter 5)

Final essay: due during examination period

Requirements

1. Enrollment: All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the first full week of the semester. No requests to add the course will be approved by the Chair of the History Department after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student.
2. Academic Misconduct: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term academic misconduct includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; this is illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations and papers. According to Faculty Rule 3335-5-487 all instances of misconduct will be reported. For further information, see the Code of Student Conduct:
http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp.
3. Disability Services: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services should inform the instructor as soon as possible. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue, Telephone: 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>.
4. Graduating Seniors: Please identify yourself during the first class to make special arrangements for deadlines.