



Bandits, Rebels, and Renegades

Introduction to Historical Methods

HIST 3000-CTW
CRN 80571

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Office Hours:
Mon 10:00am-12:00pm

Introduction to Historical Studies is designed to introduce students to the basics of historical research methods and historiography. In this course you will learn how to analyze primary sources such as newspaper articles, photographs, video, diaries, trial transcripts and material culture, while exploring the various categories of analysis (race, space, gender, sexuality, class, and so forth) that scholars use to understand human experience in the past.

Your grade will be determined on the basis of your participation in class discussions, as well as your demonstration of skills such as analyzing primary and secondary sources, correctly citing sources, making clear and effective arguments, and adhering to standards of intellectual honesty and integrity in your work. The assignments for the course include a scavenger hunt for a variety of different types of sources and media in the library and online; a paper interpreting the film *Paris Is Burning* as a primary source; several quizzes on course readings; and a final paper exploring a topic of scholarly debate, which will unfold in several parts (an initial historiography paper that examines secondary sources, an annotated bibliography, and a final paper).

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; **deviations may be necessary**. Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at

Georgia State. Upon completing this course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.

Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which accommodations are sought.

REQUIRED BOOKS

- Peter Ackroyd, *The Plato Papers*
- Charles C. Bolton and Scott P. Culclasure, *The Confessions of Edward Isham: A Poor White Life in the Old South*
- Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a 16th Century Miller*
- William Kelleher Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students*

GRADING

20%	Scavenger hunt (due 10/1)
10%	Film interpretation (due 10/17)
20%	Historiography essay (due 10/24)
20%	Annotated bibliography (due 11/12)
20%	Final paper and presentation (due 12/5)
10%	Attendance and participation (including reading quizzes)

You will receive letter grades to evaluate your performance. I use the following grading scale:

A = 93-100	C+ = 77-79
A- = 90-92	C = 73-76
B+ = 87-89	C- = 70-72
B = 83-86	D+ = 67-69
B- = 80-82	D = 63-66

SCHEDULE

Aug 20	Course overview
Aug 22	What is history? Storey, <i>Writing History</i> , 1-24
Aug 27	Peter Ackroyd, <i>The Plato Papers</i> (selections)
Aug 29	Ian Svenonius, “Eat the Rocument” <i>I’m Not There</i> showing (in class)
Sept 5	<i>I’m Not There</i> discussion

- Sept 10 Scavenger hunt (meet on second floor of Library North)
- Sept 12 Wikipedia entry on “Historiography,” at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historiography>
- Sept 17 *The Confessions of Edward Isham: A Poor White Life in the Old South*, xv-18
- Sept 19 *The Confessions of Edward Isham* (selections)
- Sept 24 No class
- Sept 26 Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a 16th Century Miller*
- Oct 1 **Scavenger hunt due/discussion**
- Oct 3 Perspectives on writing
Storey, 25-44, 67-80
- Oct 8 Elizabeth Fraterrigo, “The Answer to Suburbia: Playboy’s Urban Lifestyle”
- Oct 10 Jack Temple Kirby, “Negotiators/Nonnegotiators” in *The Countercultural South*, 8-32
- Oct 15 *Paris Is Burning* showing (in class)
Project topic due
- Oct 17 *Paris Is Burning* discussion
William Riordon, “Preface,” “Honest Graft,” and “New York City Is Pie for the Hayseeds,” in *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall: A Series of Very Plain Talks on Very Practical Politics*
Film interpretation due (3 pages)
- Oct 22 Cummings, “Collectors, Bootleggers, and the Value of Jazz, 1930-1954”
Cripple Clarence Lofton, “The Fives,” “Streamline Train (125),” “Pine Top’s Boogie Woogie,” “Policy Blues”
- Oct 24 Writing workshop
Historiography essay due (5 pages)
- Oct 29 Iggers, 149-160

Shabbir Akhtar, *A Faith for All Seasons: Islam and the Challenge of the Modern World*, 3-23

Oct 31 Reading material culture

Nov 5 John Yau, “Richard Prince: Spiritual America”

Lynne Greenberg, “The Art of Appropriation: Puppies, Piracy, and Postmodernism,” 1-15

Nov 7 Writing day; no class

Nov 12 Antoine Garapon, “The Imaginary Pirate of Globalization”

Annotated bibliography due

Nov 14 Writing day; office hours for final paper consultation

Storey, 87-94, 107-112

Nov 19-28 **Presentations**

Dec 5 **Final papers due (12 pages)**

BEING OBNOXIOUS

I do not tolerate disruptions in the classroom. Except for a laptop, you must turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices. Please do not text in class. If you are caught giggling at a video of a cat flushing a toilet instead of using your laptop for a constructive purpose, you will be asked to leave. In general, this is a class that relies heavily on discussion and participation, and if you are a distraction to yourself and others, your grade **will** suffer.

PHILOSOPHY

One thing which has not changed is that none of us, no matter what continent or island or ice cap, asked to be born in the first place, and that even somebody as old as I am, which is 80, only just got here. There were already all these games going on when I got here. An apt motto for any polity anywhere, to put on its state seal or currency or whatever, might be this quotation from the late baseball manager Casey Stengel, who was addressing a team of losing professional athletes: “Can’t anybody here play this game?”

-- Kurt Vonnegut, 2003¹

¹ Joel Bleifuss, “Kurt Vonnegut Vs. the !*!@,” *Alternet*, 10 Feb. 2003, <http://www.alternet.org/story/15098/> <accessed 1 Aug. 2011>.