

HST 490: The Philosophy of History
Fall 2014 -- TTH 11:00-12:15

Prof. Susan Crane

Office/Hours: Social Sciences 237a/MW 11:30-12:00; Thurs 9:45-10:45 and by appointment

Contact: scrane@u.arizona.edu

The past happened. History is what we make of it.

What does it mean to study the past? The philosophy of history addresses both the methodology of studying the past, and the production of meanings about the past. In this class, we will read primarily twentieth-century western authors (and a few of their nineteenth-century antecedents) who have been influential in shaping western historical practice and thought. We will also consider how images and film shape historical consciousness.

Success in this course absolutely depends upon doing the reading: these texts are the primary sources for an intellectual history of historical thought, and students will learn how to critically assess them for what they can tell us about the past, as well as how they can help us think about history in the present. We will devote class sessions to discussion of the texts as well as visual primary sources.

TEXTS

Required books are available at the UA Bookstore:

Marc Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Use and Abuse of History*

Carolyn Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman*

Access all other readings on D2L

ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are required to read all assigned texts in advance of the class meeting for which it is assigned, take good notes, and be prepared to discuss the contents in detail. To assist preparation for discussion, students will regularly write one-page **reading responses**.

Reading responses are limited to one typed page (12 pt Times Roman font, double-spaced) of questions and reflections on the assigned reading. Do not summarize the reading; a better response will focus on one topic or related topics that interested you. Use quotes from the text as examples or evidence to support a point. You may cite your sources either as (author, page) at the end of the sentence, or with footnotes.

ATTENDANCE

If you know you will have to miss a class for legitimate reasons, you are expected to inform the instructor in advance and receive an excused absence. Only students who have excused absences on reading response due dates may make up the assignment by

writing a response for another day's reading and handing it in on the day that reading is assigned. Other late papers will be assessed a letter grade reduction penalty.

The accumulation of more than three absences may result in a reduction in your final grade. The accumulation of more than four unexcused absences may result in an administrative withdrawal from the course.

All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will be honored.

PAPERS:

All written work should be formatted in 12-pt Times Roman font with standard margins and double spaced.

- 1) Two 5-7 page papers will be written on the assigned readings and will not require additional research (minimum six full pages, maximum 8 full pages).
- 2) Final Project (5-7 full pages or alternative format): Students will choose a topic that they can associate with collective memory (for themselves, or for their families) and discuss it in relation to the relevant assigned readings.

****All writing assignments must be submitted electronically to D2L Dropbox before the beginning of the class in which they are due. All writing assignments must also be submitted as hard copy during the class in which they are due.****

GRADES

2 Papers: 25% each

Class participation (reading responses, active participation in discussion): 25%

Final Project: 25%

****You must complete all writing assignments in order to receive a passing grade for the course.****

UA Policies

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

*Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. All assignments performed for this course must be original and must be performed individually unless otherwise noted. Every incident of academic dishonesty will be strictly punished. **The History Department mandates that academic dishonesty be punished by a failing grade for the course.** Additional sanctions may include a permanent record on your academic transcript and suspension or expulsion from the university. For more information on UA policies concerning academic integrity, please see:*

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>

If you have any concerns about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, consult the Main Library website: <http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/plagiarism-resources.html>.

CLASSROOM DECORUM:

Students are expected to participate maturely in class, giving their fullest attention to the instructor and other students and helping to cultivate an environment of mutual respect. As a courtesy to your classmates, do not arrive in class late or leave early. Please refrain from leaving

your seat during class whenever it can be avoided. *Turn off cell phones and pagers before arriving in class. Do not text in class. If using a laptop, do not engage in activities unrelated to class.* Whenever possible, please abstain from eating in class. Always discard your trash appropriately. For further information about UA policies concerning disruptive or threatening behavior in class, see these Websites:

<http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/disrupt.shtml>

<http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml>

Notification Regarding Disability:

It is the University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

(For the Disability Resource Center's statement on syllabi, please see:

<http://drc.arizona.edu/faculty-staff/syllabus-statement>)

****Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.****

CLASS MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Aug. 26	Introduction: What is "the philosophy of history"?
Aug. 28	Read: Ulrich, "The Slogan" [D2L] Due in class: 1-page personal philosophy of history
Sept. 2	Lecture: The History of History in the 19 th Century
Sept. 4	Read: Humboldt, "The Task of the Historian" **Reading Response due** [D2L]
Sept. 9	Read: Harrison, et al., "Methodology: Scientific History and the Problem of Objectivity" [D2L]
9/11	Read: Beard, "Historical Relativism" [D2L]
Sept. 16	Read: Dilthey, "The Construction of the Historical World," pp. 170-206 [D2L] **Reading Response due** Paper topic #1 handed out in class
Sept. 18	Read: Dilthey, "The Construction of the Historical World," pp. 207-245 [D2L]
Sept. 23	Lecture: History and Memory as Risk and Repetition
Sept. 25	Lecture: Nietzsche as Historian Paper #1 due in class

- Sept. 30 Read: Nietzsche, *The Use and Abuse of History*
- Oct. 2 Discussion of Nietzsche, con't
- Oct. 7 The Annales School
Read: Revel, "History and the Social Sciences" [online: see Reading List]
- Oct. 9 Read: Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*, Intro and ch. 1
- Oct. 14 Read: Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*, chs.2-3
****Reading Response due****
Paper Topic #2 posted on D2L
- Oct. 16 Read: Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*, chs.4-5
- Oct. 21 Read: Horowitz, "Introduction" and "Cats of the Confederacy" [D2L]
- Oct. 23 Read: Collingwood, *The Idea of History*, pp. 205-249 [D2L]
****Reading Response due****
- Oct.28 Discussion: RE-Enactments
- Oct. 30 Lecture: Collective Memory and History
Paper #2 Due in class
- Nov. 4 Read: Halbwachs, "Historical Memory and Collective Memory" [D2L] ****Reading Response due****
- Nov. 6 Lecture: Postwar Historical Consciousness and Dior Skirts
- Nov.11 NO CLASS – Veteran's Day
- Nov. 13 Read: Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman*, pp. 1-61
- Nov. 18 Read: Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman*, pp. 62-144
****Reading Response due****
- Nov. 20 Lecture: Postmodern Historical Consciousness and The History of Nothing
Final Project instructions posted on D2L
- Nov. 25 In-class screening: "History and Memory" by Rea Tajiri
****No class Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Break****
- Dec. 2 Read: Foucault, "What is an Author?" [D2L]
- Dec. 4 Read: Benjamin, "Theses on the Philosophy of History" and "The Task of the Translator" [D2L]
- Dec. 9 **Due in class:** second 1-page personal philosophy of history
- Final project due Dec. 12 by 5:00 pm in Soc Sci 215 (instructor's mailbox)**

Reading List
in order of assignment

1. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, “The Slogan” in Ulrich, *Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History* (2007)
2. Wilhelm von Humboldt, “The Task of the Historian” in Kurt Mueller-Vollmer, ed., *The Hermeneutics Reader: Texts of the German tradition from the Enlightenment to the present* (1985)
3. Robert Harrison, et al, “Methodology” in Harrison, et al, eds. *Making History* (2004)
4. Charles Beard, “Historical Relativism” in Fritz Stern, ed., *The Varieties of History* (1973)
5. Wilhelm Dilthey, “The Construction of the Historical World” in H. P. Rickman, ed., *Dilthey: Selected Writings* (1976)
6. Jacques Revel, “History and the Social Sciences” *Cambridge Histories Online*
7. Tony Horowitz, “Introduction” and “Cats of the Confederacy” in his *Confederates in the Attic* (1998)
8. R. G. Collingwood, “Epilogomena” in his *The Idea of History* (1946)
9. Maurice Halbwachs, “Historical Memory and Collective Memory” in Halbwachs, *The Collective Memory* (1980)
10. Michel Foucault, “What is an Author?”
11. Walter Benjamin, “Theses on the Philosophy of History” and “The Task of the Translator” in Hannah Arendt, ed., *Illuminations* (1968)

The End.