

HST 490: The Philosophy of History
Fall 2019

Prof. Susan A. Crane

Office//Hours: Chavez 319 A/B//Tuesdays 10-10:45, Thursdays 3:30-4:00 and by appt.

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The past is what 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 reception of images and film shapes historical consciousness.

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

Learning Outcomes

- ∞ Assess philosophies of histories for their content, form and significance
- ∞ Define a personal philosophy of history informed by critical engagement with diverse scholarship
- ∞ Comprehend the distinction between the past as such, and History as narrative

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Histories begin within situated communities.

The University of Arizona sits on the original homelands of indigenous peoples who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. Aligning with the university's core value of a diverse and inclusive community, it is an institutional responsibility to recognize and acknowledge the people, culture and history that make up the Wildcat community. At the institutional level, it is important to be proactive in broadening awareness throughout campus to ensure our students feel represented and valued.

TEXTS

Required books are available for purchase at the UA Bookstore. We will read them in their entirety:

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/ GRADES

****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.****

CLASS PARTICIPATION/25%

The work you will perform for this class takes three forms: reading, writing, and discussion. 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 analyses**.

Reading analyses 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 assignment; a better analysis 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 endnotes.

- ∞ Students will research and present brief biographical information about assigned authors, using the databases linked to the course D2L Library Tools.
- ∞ Regular class attendance and daily participation in discussion will be assessed as part of the class participation grade.

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 (this includes reporting illness when it occurs, preferably via email). Only students who have excused absences on reading analysis due dates may make up the assignment by writing an analysis 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/ 25% each

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

- ∞ Three 5-7 page papers will be written on the assigned readings and will not require additional research (**minimum five full pages**, maximum 7 full pages).

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

GRADING PHILOSOPHY

A "grade" is a single letter given to indicate the level of performance attained in scholastic work. It is the professor's evaluation of the accuracy, depth and quality of expression found in students' written assignments for this course. Although it is not a precise measure, each letter has a meaning that conveys important feedback about the quality of academic work. An "A" is reserved for the very best work in the course. It means that the student far exceeds normal expectations for work at this level in all aspects of the assignment (accuracy, depth, quality of expression). Grades in the "B" range indicate that while accurate and adequate in depth and quality of expression, the assignment could still be improved significantly in one or more of these aspects. Grades in the "C" range indicate that the student has met minimum expectations for undergraduate work in the course, but that his or her work is undistinguished in accuracy, depth and/or quality of expression; considerable room for improvement exists. A "D" grade indicates that student work is below expectations for undergraduate work and that serious deficiencies need to be addressed. An "F" indicates that the student has not performed the assigned work.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

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 (ALSO LINKED IN D2L LIBRARY TOOLS):

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/plagiarism-resources.html>.

For additional information about course and university policies, see The Fine Print at the end of the syllabus.

****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 MEETING SCHEDULE

- Aug. 27 Introduction: What is “the philosophy of history”?
Aug. 29 Discussion
Read: Ulrich, “The Slogan” [D2L]
- Sept. 3 Discussion
Read: Harrison, et al., “Methodology: Scientific History and the Problem of Objectivity” [D2L]
- Sept. 5 Discussion
Read: Bonnie Smith, “Gender and the Practices of Scientific History” [JSTOR]
- Sept. 10 Discussion
Read: Humboldt, “The Task of the Historian” [D2L]
****Reading Analysis due****
- Sept. 12 Discussion
Read: Beard, “Historical Relativism” [D2L]
Paper #1 topics posted on D2L
- Sept. 17 Lecture: Nietzsche as Historian
Sept. 19 Discussion
Read: Nietzsche, *The Use and Abuse of History*
****Reading Analysis due****
- Sept. 24 Discussion
Read: Nietzsche, *The Use and Abuse of History*
- Sept. 26 Film screening: “Rashomon” (1950)
- Oct. 1 Discussion/Lecture: “Rashomon” and Re-enactments
*Finish viewing “Rashomon” before class
Paper #1 due in class
- Oct. 3 Discussion: Re-Enactments and the Civil War
Read: Horowitz, “Introduction” and “Cats of the Confederacy” [D2L]
- Oct. 8 Discussion: Re-enactments in the Creation of History
Read: Collingwood, *The Idea of History*, pp. 205-249 AND 282-302 [D2L]
****Reading Analysis due****
- Oct. 10 **No class meeting**
****Screening of “Bisbee ’17” (2018) at CCP auditorium, 6:00****
- Oct. 15 Discussion: “Bisbee ‘17”
Read: Benton-Cohen, “Advising Bisbee ‘17”
Due in class: 1-page paper on how re-enactment expresses historical consciousness in “Bisbee ‘17”

- Oct. 17 Read: Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*, Intro and ch. 1
- Oct. 22 Read: Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*, chs.2-3
****Reading Analysis due****
- Oct. 24 Read: Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*, chs.4-5
 Paper Topic #2 posted on D2L
- Oct. 29 Lecture: Collective Memory and History
- Oct. 31 Read: Halbwachs, "Historical Memory and Collective Memory"
 [D2L] ****Reading Analysis due****
- Nov. 5 Film screening: Rea Tajiri, "History and Memory"
- Nov. 7 Lecture: Postwar Historical Consciousness and Dior Skirts
Paper #2 Due in class
- Nov. 12 Read: Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman*, pp. 1-61
- Nov. 14 Read: Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman*, pp. 62-144
****Reading Analysis due****
- Nov. 19 Lecture: Postmodern Historical Consciousness
- Nov. 21 Read: Benjamin, "Theses on the Philosophy of History" and "The
 Task of the Translator" [D2L]
- Nov. 26 Read: Foucault TBD [D2L]
 Final Paper topics posted on D2L
- Nov. 28 NO CLASS – EAT TURKEY INSTEAD
- Dec. 3 Lecture: The History of Remembering Nothing
- Dec. 5 Read: Ethan Kleinberg, Joan Wallach Scott, and Gary Wilder,
 "Theses on Theory and History" (Theory Revolt, 2018), 1.4, 1.11.
<https://theoryrevolt.com/>
- Dec. 10 Wrap-up Discussion: What is the philosophy of history?
Due in class: 1-page personal philosophy of history
- Dec. 12 Final paper due by 5:00 pm in Chavez 406 (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. Bonnie Smith, "Gender and the Practices of Scientific History: The Seminar and Archival Research in the Nineteenth Century," *The American Historical Review* Vol. 100, No. 4 (Oct., 1995), pp. 1150-1176.
5. Charles Beard, "Historical Relativism" in Fritz Stern, ed., *The Varieties of History* (1973)
6. Tony Horowitz, "Introduction" and "Cats of the Confederacy" in his *Confederates in the Attic* (1998)
7. R. G. Collingwood, "Epilogomena" in his *The Idea of History* (1946)
8. Katherine Benton-Cohen, "Advising Bisbee '17" *American Historical Review*, June 2019
9. Maurice Halbwachs, "Historical Memory and Collective Memory" in Halbwachs, *The Collective Memory* (1980)
10. Walter Benjamin, "Theses on the Philosophy of History" and "The Task of the Translator" in Hannah Arendt, ed., *Illuminations* (1968)

Read on...

The Fine Print

History Major Program Learning Outcomes

Write clear, well-organized prose.

Conduct historical research, including the appropriate use of primary sources, to provide properly documented evidence to support an argument.

Recognize and evaluate competing historical interpretations.

Absence and Class Participation Policy

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at: <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop>

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable, <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>.

Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean Designee) will be honored. See: <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/absences>

Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with University policies, which are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#incomplete> and <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#Withdrawal> respectively.

Classroom Behavior Policy

To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility. We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all of us feel comfortable with each other

and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. To that end, our focus is on the tasks at hand and not on extraneous activities (e.g., texting, chatting, reading a newspaper, making phone calls, web surfing, etc.).

The use of personal electronics such as laptops, iPads, and other such mobile devices can easily be distracting to the other students and the instructor. Their use can degrade the learning environment. If this becomes an issue in our classroom, students will not be permitted to use these devices during the class period.

Threatening Behavior Policy

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>.

Notification of Objectionable Materials

This course will contain material of a mature nature, which may include explicit language, depictions of nudity, sexual situations, and/or violence. The instructor will provide advance notice when such materials will be used. Students are not automatically excused from interacting with such materials, but they are encouraged to speak with the instructor to voice concerns and to provide feedback.

Accessibility and Accommodations

At the University of Arizona we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to explore reasonable accommodation.

Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in our classroom should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

The End.