

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Fall 2014

# History 701

## History in a Global Perspective

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<http://historyofcapitalism.net>  
Office hours: Thursday, 1:00-4:00 p.m., or by appt.

Seminar meetings  
Thursdays, 12:05-12:55 p.m.  
5233 Mosse Humanities Bldg\*  
(Curti Lounge)  
\* With one exception  
noted on the schedule

### Our agenda

History 701 is a one-credit, one-hour, required weekly seminar for students in the first semester of the Ph.D. program in History. It is convened by the professor currently serving as Director of Graduate Studies. The course has several goals.

One is to give you an opportunity, at the outset of your graduate career, to become better acquainted with the students in your cohort across geographical, thematic, and methodological specialties. As incoming graduate students, your cohort will, by definition, define the “cutting edge” in historical studies in future years. As you push the boundaries of the discipline, it is quite likely that you will learn as much from each other as you do from the faculty. This seminar is intended to launch that process.

A second is to encourage you to think in broad, expansive terms about the discipline and profession of history and about your own work. As you progress through the graduate program, your work will inevitably become more specialized, culminating in your dissertation research. This seminar encourages you to develop the lifelong habit of thinking broadly and engaging with a wide array of historians, historical work, and audiences.

The third goal is to introduce you to individual historians and an array of professional, geographic, chronological, and thematic areas of expertise. During most seminar meetings, visiting historians will lead a discussion of their work and field of expertise.

We will also spend a portion of each hour addressing any practical questions about graduate study that may arise.

Given the size of the class and the limited time at our disposal, our discussions will inevitably be suggestive and illustrative rather than comprehensive. As with every course that you will take as a graduate student, how much you get out of the seminar will depend on how much you put into it. Optimally this seminar will encourage you to develop a perpetual curiosity to explore the intersections of your research interests and those of historians working in widely different times and places or with radically different methodological tools.

### Format

The requirements for this course are modest: do the reading and writing assignments, and come to seminar prepared with questions. Please arrive a few minutes early so that we may begin on time. Most

seminars will begin with about 10 minutes for our own internal discussion, followed by a faculty visitor at 12:15 pm. Guests will speak for approximately 15 minutes, and we will then open the floor to discussion, led by the visiting historian and moderated by Prof. Dunlavy.

Readings: For most meetings, one or two short pieces chosen by the guest will be posted on Learn@UW one week in advance.

## Assignments

For our second meeting (Sept. 11), write a short reflection on the assigned readings. Post this on our Learn@UW discussion list no later than 9 a.m. the morning of our seminar meeting.

For 7 of the 9 remaining weeks of faculty visits, post on our discussion list a short reflection:

- on the assigned reading(s) – due no later than 9 a.m. the morning of our seminar, OR
- on the faculty visit (reading and discussion) – due no later than noon on the Friday following our seminar.

What is a “short reflection”? Aim for 150-250 words, and think of it as a digital form of “thinking on paper.” It may take the form of a short critique, a series of questions, or an evaluation of the assigned texts. The emphasis is on “reflection” as in “careful consideration.” Use these reflections as opportunities to sharpen both your critical-thinking skills and your ability to convey your thoughts in engaging, succinct prose.

Each week, please set aside time on Thursday morning to read the other students’ reflections before seminar. As you do so, think about which reflections are more useful (thought-provoking, enlightening, engaging) and what makes them so.

To gain access to the readings and to post your reflections, you will need to use the seminar’s Learn@UW page. Go to Learn@UW (<https://learnuw.wisc.edu> or via My UW) → log in using your NetID and password → locate History 701 on your class list → click on “Content” (for the readings) or “Discussion” (to post your comments). Please compose your reflection in a word processing program and then cut and paste it into the discussion (rather than uploading a document) – this just makes it easier for everyone to read.

Grading is based on attendance, on contributions to discussion, and on the thoughtful completion of writing assignments. Please notify me in advance if you must be absent.

## Schedule

Note: All assigned readings will be available on our Learn@UW site. Those assigned by visiting historians will be posted one week in advance. The schedule of visitors may change as circumstances require.

September 4 – Introductions

September 11 – Discussion

- Cronon, William. "Getting Ready to Do History." *Carnegie Essays on the Doctorate*. Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 2004.
- Banner, James M., Jr., and John R. Gillis, eds. *Becoming Historians*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009. Pp. ix-xviii, 1-33.
- Guillory, John. "How Scholars Read." *ADE Bulletin*, no. 146 (Fall 2008): 8-17.

September 18 – Asst. Prof. Sean Dinces

Department of History; US, 20c, political economy of sports

September 25 – Prof. Gregg Mitman

Departments of History/History of Science/Medical History/Environmental Studies

October 2 – Asst. Prof. Kathryn Ciancia

Department of History; modern Eastern Europe/interwar Poland

October 9 – Prof. Brenda Gayle Plummer

Departments of History/Afro-American Studies; US, 20c, race, foreign relations

October 16 – Asst. Prof. Judd Kinzley

Department of History; modern China/state power, environmental history, border regions

October 23 – Prof. A. Finn Enke

Departments of History/Gender and Women's Studies; sexuality and gender, esp. in the 20c US

October 30 – Lisa Saywell

Head of Public Services and General History Librarian, Memorial Library – this seminar meeting will be held in MEMORIAL LIBRARY ROOM 231

November 6 – TBA

November 13 – Prof. Florence Bernault

Department of History; West and Equatorial African history, contemporary Africa

November 20

Leslie Abadie, Department of History Graduate Program Coordinator

November 27 – Thanksgiving break; no meeting

December 4 – Assoc. Prof. Mitra Sharafi

UW Law School; legal history of South Asia

December 11

Wrap-up discussion

### For all-around inspiration

Bloch, Marc. *The Historian's Craft*. New York: Vintage Books, 1953. Or a later edition; multiple copies are available in the library. [Bloch was a founding member of the Annales School. A member of the French resistance, he was executed by the Gestapo shortly before the end of World War II.]

### The profession

Green, Anna, and Kathleen Troup, eds. *The Houses of History: A Critical Reader in Twentieth-Century History and Theory*. New York: New York University Press, 1999.

Banner, Jr., James M., and John R. Gillis, eds. *Becoming Historians*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009. [Memoirs of leading historians.]

Banner, Jr., James M. *Being a Historian: An Introduction to the Professional World of History*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Townsend, Robert B. *History's Babel: Scholarship, Professionalization, and the Historical Enterprise in the United States, 1880-1940*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Barreyre, Nicolas, Michael Heale, Stephen Tuck, and Cécile Vidal, eds. *Historians across Borders: Writing American History in a Global Age*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014.

### Useful knowledge

Grafton, Anthony. *The Footnote: A Curious History*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1997.

Poovey, Mary. *A History of the Modern Fact: Problems of Knowledge in the Sciences of Wealth and Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998.

Bayard, Pierre. *How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read*. New York: Bloomsbury USA, 2007. [Entertaining work by a French professor of literature.]

### Writing aids

Strunk, Jr., William, and E. G. White. *The Elements of Style* (any recent edition). The original (1918) edition is available online at <http://www.bartleby.com/141/>. [Venerable and still indispensable.]

Pyne, Stephen J. *Voice and Vision: A Guide to Writing History and Other Serious Nonfiction*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2009.

Fish, Stanley. *How to Write a Sentence: And How to Read One*. New York: Harper, 2011.

### Analytical aids

Browne, M. Neil, and Stuart M. Keeley. *Asking the Right Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall – any recent edition.

Fischer, David Hackett. *Historians' Fallacies: Toward a Logic of Historical Thought*. New York: Harper & Row, 1970. [Though dated, this classic is still useful and entertaining.]

Lukes, Stephen. *Power: A Radical View*, either the original (1974) ed. or the second edition (2005). [The second edition includes the original edition in unrevised form plus two additional chapters in which Lukes amends his own work and responds to critics.]

Sewell, William H. *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

#### On the research process and related matters

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. Rev. by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams and the University of Chicago Press Editorial Staff, 8th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013). [Make sure it's the 7th or later edition, which includes, as Part I, a condensed version of the following book.]

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*, 3rd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008). [More in-depth treatment of the subject than in the Turabian edition above. Available as an electronic book through MadCat.]