

History 270: Historical Methods and Interpretations.¹
Fall 2009, Moravian College
MW 1:10-2:20 Hurd 103

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This class gives an introduction to the formal aspects of historical study. It is designed to provide background into how historians work and to give students an understanding of the interpretive and practical skills needed in our craft.

The class is divided into two main focus areas: 1) historiography (the various interpretive schools of historical thought from the earliest forms of historical consciousness to present controversies) and 2) methodology (the proper standards of good historical scholarship and inquiry.) Anyone needing to schedule exams with the Counseling Center must do so by notifying the teacher of this arrangement at least two weeks before the scheduled exam.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main St (ex 1510) Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from this office.

Please also observe common courtesy in class in regard to cell phones and eating in class.

I reserve the right to edit this syllabus at anytime during the semester.

The class has two required texts, both available in the campus bookstore:

Mark T. Gilderhus, *History and Historians: A Historiographical Introduction*.
Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*.

In addition to these books, a selection of related readings will be provided for the students in class or on reserve in Reeves Library.

You should also refer to *The Bedford Handbook* from your Writing 100 class at Moravian College.

¹ My thanks to my colleagues in the Moravian College History Department who generously shared their class plans, readings and assignments from their previous History 270 courses which have been integrated into this semester's class.

Grading and Evaluation:

Journals: 24%

Research Paper: 30%

Final: 10%

Oral Presentation: 6%

Homework assignments: 20%

Participation: 10%

(Separate handouts will detail these assignments and expectations.)

Please be familiar with Moravian College's grading standards. It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

Class meeting schedule:

Aug 31: Introduction.

Sept 2: What is History?

John Tosh, "The Pursuit of History," p. 1-25, Rampolla, 1-5, 25-29.

Journal entry 1 due.

Sept 7: Labor Day

Sept 9: Historiography: How History was viewed prior to the nineteenth century.

Reading, Gilderhus, Chapter 2-3.

Sept 14: Finding a Topic, Effective Oral presentations.

Readings distributed in class.

Homework exercise one: Please write a 1-page (typed, single spaced) paper on the best lecture or oral presentation you can remember. This speaker might be a professor at Moravian College or elsewhere, or it might be someone whom you have seen or heard deliver speeches on television or radio. Think especially about what made this lecture/speech effective.

Sept 16: Methods: Library Session 1: Locating and evaluating published primary sources.

Reading: Rampolla, 6-7, 9-13

Sept 21: Historiography: Philosophy of History Continued.

Reading: Gilderhus, Chapter 4, Speculative Approaches: Hegel, Kant, Marx.

Presentations: E.P. Thompson, Raphael Samuel, David Montgomery, David Brody, Howard Zinn, Walter Licht, Dorothy Thomson, Sally Alexander, Alf Ludtke, Paul Buhle.

Sept 23: Historiography: Conceptualizing Historical Frameworks.

Reading, Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History," *National Interest* (Summer 1990): 2-18.

Homework 2 due.

Sept 28: Historiography: Writing Historiographical Essays,

Reading, Rampolla, 36-38 and sample essays.

Possible Presentations: William Appleman Williams, Thomas Sugrue, Lizabeth Cohen, Eric Foner, David McCullough, Sean Wilentz, Bernard Bailyn.

Sept 30: Methods: Library Session 2: Locating and Evaluating Secondary Sources (databases).

Oct 5: Writing Consultations. **Homework 3 due.**

Oct 7: Historiography: The Objectivity Question.

Reading, Gilderhus, Chapter 5, Analytical Approaches.

Matthias Middel, "The Annales," in Stefan Berger, Heiko Feldner and Kevin Passmore (eds.)

Writing History: Theory and Practice (London: Arnold, 2003): 104-117.

Presentations: Marc Bloch, Lucien Febvre, Ferdinand Braudel, Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie.

Oct 12: Fall Break

Oct 14: Methods: Library Session 3: Using the World Wide Web.

Reading, Gilderhus, Writing and Research, Chapter 6; Rampolla, 16-17.

Oct 19: Historiography: Gender History.

Reading: U.S. Women's History, Linda Gordon.

Possible Presentations: Joan Scott, Gerda Lerner, Alice Kessler Harris, Linda Gordon, George Chauncey, Dorothy Sue Cobble, Kathy Peiss, Ruth Milkman, Nancy Cott.

Oct 21: Visit to Moravian Church Archives.

Reading, Mary Jo Pugh, *Providing Reference Services for Archives and Manuscripts*

Oct 26: Historiography: Historians of race/ethnicity.

Reading: Robin G.D. Kelly, "But A Local Phase of a World Problem: Black History's Global Vision," *Journal of American History* 86 (3) 1999: 1045-1077.

Oct 28: Methods: Mechanics of Writing.

Possible Presentations: Manning Marable, George Lipsitz, Darlene Clark Hine, Mary Frances Berry, Robin G.D. Kelley, Joe William Trotter, Jr. Eric Arnesen, John Hope Franklin, W.E.B. DuBois, Barbara Savage, Glenda Gilmore.

Nov 2: Professional Ethics, Reading: Rampolla, 88-137.

Nov 4: Historiography: Global History.

Reading: Philip Pomper, "World History and its Critics," *History and Theory* May 1995:1-7;
William McNeill, "The Changing Shape of World History," *History and Theory* May 1995: 8-26.
La Pietra Report, Organization of American Historians (2000)

Homework 4 Due.

Nov 9: The New Cultural History.

Reading: Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt and Margaret Jacob, "Postmodernism and the Crisis of Modernity," *Telling the Truth About History*.

Possible Presentations: William Sewell, Michel Foucault, Edward Said, Lynn Hunt.

Nov 11: Citations and Footnotes.

Reading: Rampolla, Chapter 7.

Nov 16: Peer Review Day.

Nov 18: Recent Issues in the Historical Profession.

Reading: Gilderhus, Professional History in Recent Times, Chapter 7; William Palmer, "On or About 1950 or 1955 History Departments Changed: A Step in the Creation of the Modern History Department," *The Journal of the Historical Society* 7:3 September 2007, 385-406.

Nov 23: Professional Issues: What to do with a History Degree?

Peter Sterns, "Why Study History?" Available online at

<http://www.historians.org/pubs/Free/WhyStudyHistory.htm>

Nov 25: Thanksgiving Break

Nov 30: Historiography: Where to now? Reading: Gilderhaus, "Postscript: Culture Wars and Postmodernism."

Final Paper due .

Dec 2: Class Presentations

Dec 7: Class Presentations.

Dec 9: Final class overview

Homework Exercise 5 due Dec 9: please do a search on Monster.com or www.mcall.com/classified/jobs or Moravian's Career center site for jobs you might apply for as a history graduate (either in this immediate region or in another region where you'd like to work.) Print out the description and details of a job that interests you. Then write a letter of application (1-2 pages) in which you explain how your history degree has given you skills appropriate to this job. (If you don't have the required years of experience, that's okay for the purposes of this exercise.)

