CRITICAL READING IN HISTORY: CAS HI200
SPRING 2012: KCB 103 MW 2:00-3:30

Professor Henry Anderson
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Office Hours: M 11:00-1:00 and 3:30-5:00; F 11:00-2:00; and by appointment

This course will examine the means by which historians investigate, analyze, interpret, and construct history. The readings cover a general study of world history and then focus more particularly on the Middle East. The topics, including imperialism, nationalism, gender, and Islam, will be examined via the agency of memoirs, ethnographies, and journalistic and scholarly studies.

Books:

Truman Capote, In Cold Blood
Akram Fouad Khater, Inventing Home: Emigration, Gender, and the Middle Class in Lebanon, 1870-1920
Marwan Kraidy, Reality Television and Arab Politics
Jon Krakauer, Into the Wild
Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis
Jenny White, Islamist Mobilization in Turkey
All other readings are on the Web: http://people.bu.edu/banderso/hi200

Requirements:

Precis (15%). Students will pass in at the beginning of every class a 1.5 page, single-spaced, precis analyzing the main points to be found in all of that week's readings. These precis will not be a narrative of the readings, but a comprehensive analysis and comparison of them.

Participation (20%). To receive full credit, students must exhibit knowledge of the readings and contribute their own analysis of these issues. To achieve this, the students must come to class each week (attendance is mandatory) having completed all of the readings assigned.

Papers (65%). Students are required to write three papers during the semester, all analyzing the "historian's craft." The goal of these exercises is to illustrate how historians construct their arguments, how different types of sources produce different types of analyses, and how historical narratives are produced and reproduced within different historical contexts. The first two papers (20% each) are to be 7-8 pages long while the last (25%) is to be 15 pages long. Students will choose their own topics in consultation with the professor.
Penalties for late work. The papers must be turned in on the dates specified below; otherwise they will lose 1/2 a grade for each day they are late. Plagiarism (including paraphrasing) will be punished per the guidelines set out in the Boston University handbook. If the Academic Conduct Board decrees that a student has plagiarized a paper, that student will receive an F on the paper and will have no opportunity to rewrite it.

Week 1 (January 18): Introduction

Week 2 (January 23 and 25)

Asef Bayat, "Selections," Life as Politics: How Ordinary People Change the Middle East (On the Web)
Mona el-Ghobashy, "The Praxis of the Egyptian Revolution," MERIP Spring 2011 (On the Web)
Ahmad Shokr, "The 18 Days of Tahrir," MERIP Spring 2011 (On the Web)
Salwa Ismail, "A Private Estate Called Egypt," guardian.co.uk, February 6, 2011 (On the Web)

Week 3 (January 30 and February 1)

Truman Capote, In Cold Blood

Week 4 (February 6 and 8)

Jon Krakauer, Into the Wild

Week 5 (February 13 and 15)

Ussama Makdisi, "Selections," Faith Misplaced (On the Web)
Henry Jessup, "Selections," Fifty-Three Years in Syria (On the Web)
Daniel Bliss, "Missionary Life in the Lebanon" and "The College President," The Reminiscences of Daniel Bliss (On the Web)
Abby Bliss, "Selections," The Reminiscences of Daniel Bliss (On the Web)
Lady Duff Gordon, "Black as Ink and Handsome as the Greek Baccus," Letters from Egypt: 1862-1869 (On the Web)
Judy Mabro, "Selections," Veiled Half-Truths (On the Web)
First Paper Due: Friday, February 17, 2012, 5:00pm

Week 6 (Tuesday, February 21 and February 22)

"Selections," Nationalism, edited by John Hutchinson and Anthony D. Smith (On the Web)
Benedict Anderson, "Selections," Imagined Communities (On the Web)
Partha Chatterjee, "Selections," The Nation and Its Fragments (On the Web)
Takashi Fujitani, "Inventing, forgetting, Remembering: Toward a Historical Ethnography of the Nation-State," Cultural Nationalism in East Asia (On the Web)

Week 7 (February 27 and 29)

Burke O. Long, "Landscapes of Democracy," Imagining the Holy Land: Maps, Models, and Fantasy Travels (On the Web)
Timothy Mitchell, "Egypt at the Exhibition," Colonising Egypt (On the Web)
Edward Said, "The Pleasures of Imperialism," Culture and Imperialism (On the Web)
Robert H. MacDonald, "Popular Fictions," The Language of Empire (On the Web)
Harrison E. Salisbury, Selections, Behind the Lines - Hanoi (On the Web)

Week 8 (March 5 and 7)

Akram Fouad Khater, Inventing Home: Emigration, Gender, and the Middle Class in Lebanon, 1870-1920

SPRING BREAK, March 10-18

Week 9 (March 19 and 21)

Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis

Week 10 (March 26 and 28)

Oleg Grabar, "Selections," Formation of Islamic Art (On the Web)
Harbans Mukhia, "Selections," *The Mughals of India* (On the Web)

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**Second Paper Due: Friday, March 30, 2012, 5:00pm**

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**Week 11 (April 2 and 4)**

**Jenny White, *Islamist Mobilization in Turkey***

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**Week 12 (April 9 and 11)**

Fatima Mernissi, "Selections," *Dreams of Trespass* (On the Web)
Nuha Al-Radi, "Selections," *Baghdad Diaries* (On the Web)

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**Week 13 (April 18)**

Moshe Dayan, "Selections," *Story of My Life* (On the Web)
Ghada Karmi, "Selections," *In Search of Fatima* (On the Web)
Said Aburish, "Selections," *Children of Bethany* (On the Web)

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**Week 14 (April 23 and 25)**

**Marwan Kraidy, *Reality Television and Arab Politics***

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**Week 15 (April 30 and May 2)**

Robert Fisk, "Selections," *Pity the Nation* (On the Web)
Elaine Sciolino, "Selections," *Persian Mirrors: The Elusive Face of Iran* (On the Web)
Jonathan Steele, "Selections," *Ghosts of Afghanistan: The Haunted Background* (On the Web)

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**FINAL PAPER DUE (May 7-11, 2012)**