THE HISTORIAN'S CRAFT: CAS HI200  
SPRING 2016: HI304 F 12:00-3:00

Professor Betty Anderson  
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Office: Room 306, 226 Bay State Road  
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Office Hours: M 12:00-2:00, W 1:30-3:30, F 3:00-4:00, 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:

- Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis (Knopf Doubleday, 2007).
- All other readings are on the Web: [http://people.bu.edu/banderso/hi200](http://people.bu.edu/banderso/hi200)

Requirements:

*Precis* (20%). 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 (15% each) are to be 5 pages long while the last (30%) 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 1/3 a grade for each day they are late. Plagiarism will be punished per the guidelines set out in the CAS Academic Conduct Code. Students can find the policy at: [Boston University Academic Conduct Code](http://www.bu.edu/advising/policies/academicconduct.php).
Week 1 (January 22): Introduction

Week 2 (January 29)


Week 3 (February 5)

**Truman Capote, In Cold Blood**

Photos:  
http://www.gcpolice.org/History/Clutter/Pictures_for_Clutters.htm  
http://www2.ljworld.com/photos/galleries/2005/apr/03/in_cold_blood_a_legacy_in_photos/

Week 4 (February 12)

3) Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad or the New Pilgrims Progress* (Signet Classic, 1966), pp. 333-361.  

Week 5 (February 19)

**Kathryn Cramer Brownell, Showbiz Politics: Hollywood in American Life**

**First Paper Due: Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 5:00pm**

Week 6 (February 26)


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**Week 7 (No Class: March 4) Make-up TBA**

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**SPRING BREAK, March 5-13**

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**Week 8 (March 18)**

1) **Joseph Conrad**, *Heart of Darkness*

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**Week 9 (March 25)**

4) Takashi Fujitani, "Inventing, forgetting, Remembering: Toward a Historical Ethnography of the Nation-State," *Cultural Nationalism in East Asia* (*University of California, 1993*), pp. 77-106.

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**Week 10 (April 1)**

**Lara Deeb and Mona Harb.** *Leisurely Islam: Negotiating Geography and Morality in Shi‘ite South Beirut*

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**Second Paper Due: Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 5:00pm**

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**Week 11 (April 8)**

1) **Marjane Satrapi**, *Persepolis*
Week 12 (April 15)

Patrick Cockburn, *Rise of Islamic State*

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Week 13 (April 22)


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Week 14 (April 29)


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**FINAL PAPER DUE: TBA**