

## JONATHAN R. ZATLIN

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### GRS HI 800 EUROPEAN HISTORIOGRAPHY WEDNESDAYS 2:30-5:30 HIS B04

**COURSE DESCRIPTION** This course is intended to introduce students to a variety of historical approaches in European context. Unlike other courses, however, the point of the course is not simply to acquaint students with a specific body of literature, or even with the methodological diversity that has characterized the writing of European history. On the contrary, our main task is to analyze critically changing attitudes toward facticity, sources, methods, analytic models, and narrative structures in European history.

**REQUIREMENTS** This course is a seminar, which means that **attendance is required and participation in discussion essential**. You cannot participate in debate – the linchpin of learning – if you are not present. For this reason, your grade will be marked down for unexcused absences. To facilitate discussion, each member of the seminar will give **one oral report** on a week's assigned texts. In addition, each student will write in **three papers** of 10-12 pages in length. Class participation, including the oral report, counts for 25 percent of your grade, while each paper counts for 25 percent. Please turn papers in on time. "On time" means at the **beginning of class** on the day they are due.

**PLAGIARISM** Defined as the use of intellectual material produced by another person without appropriate acknowledgment, plagiarism is a serious infraction of scholarly conduct. It will earn an automatic F for the course and be prosecuted according to the Boston University Academic Conduct Code.

**READINGS** Starred texts (\*) can be found on the Blackboard website; texts marked with a carrot (^) can be found on JSTOR, via Mugar, or elsewhere online. The following books are available for purchase at Barnes and Noble BU.

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism: Ordinary Life in Extraordinary Times* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (1975), Alan Sheridan, trans. (New York: Vintage Books, 1995).

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992)

Georges Lefebvre, *The Coming of the French Revolution* trans. R.R. Palmer (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005)

David Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence: Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998)

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage, 1979)

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the "Spirit" of Capitalism* (1905, 1920), Talcott Parsons, trans. (New York: Dover Publications, 2003)

S. Jonathan Wiesen, *Creating the Nazi Marketplace: Commerce and Consumption in the Third Reich* (New York and Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

If you aren't familiar with the broad strokes of modern European history, I recommend Eric Hobsbawm's four volumes: *The Age of Revolutions, 1789-1848*, *The Age of Capital, 1848-1875*, *The Age of Empire, 1875-1914*, and *The Extremes: A History of the World, 1914-1991*.

**September 6: Introduction**

Excerpts from David Hume, Friedrich Nietzsche

**September 13: History as Class Conflict**

Georges Lefebvre, *The Coming of the French Revolution*

\*François Furet, "The French Revolution Is Over," in: *Interpreting the French Revolution*, trans. Elborg Forster (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981), section I, 1-28.

^Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (online at marxists.org)

**September 20: Capitalism and Modernity**

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

\*Max Weber, "Science as a Vocation," in H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills (ed.), *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1946), 129-56.

**September 27: The Annales School and Social History**

^Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, "Motionless History"

\*Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, "The Unification of the Globe by Disease" and "Castration by Magic," in Le Roy Ladurie, *The Mind and Method of the Historian*

\*Michelle Perrot, "Delinquency and the Penitentiary System in Nineteenth-Century France" in: Forster and Ranum, (eds.), *Deviants and the Abandoned in French Society* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978), 213-45.

\*Jacques Rossiaud, "Prostitution, Youth, and Society in the Towns of Southeastern France in the Fifteenth Century," in: Forster and Ranum (eds.), *Deviants and the Abandoned in French Society* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978), 1-46.

^E.P. Thompson, "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century," *Past and Present*, 50 (Feb., 1971): 76-136.

^Hans-Ulrich Wehler, "Bismarck's Imperialism 1862-1890," *Past and Present* 48 (1970): 119-155.

**October 4: Microhistory**

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*

\*Alf Lüdtke, "What is the History of Everyday Life and Who Are Its Practitioners?" in Alf Lüdtke (ed.), *The History of Everyday Life, Reconstructing Historical Experiences and Ways of Life* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1989), 3-40.

^Jill Lepore, "Historians Who Love Too Much: Reflections on Microhistory and Biography," *The Journal of American History* 88:1 (June, 2001): 129-144.

**First Paper due**

**October 11: Postmodernity or Radical Enlightenment?**

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Patricia O'Brien, "Michel Foucault's History of Culture," in Lynn Hunt (ed.), *The New Cultural History*, 25-46 (available electronically via Mugar)

October 18: **The Dismal Science and History**

- ^Robert M. Solow, "Economic History and Economics," *The American Economic Review*, 75:2: 328-331.
- ^Richard A. Easterlin, "Why Isn't the Whole World Developed?" *The Journal of Economic History*, 41:1, (March, 1981): 1-19.
- ^Nicholas Crafts, "Forging Ahead and Falling behind: The Rise and Relative Decline of the First Industrial Nation," *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 12:2 (Spring, 1998): 193-210.
- ^Douglass C. North and Barry R. Weingast, "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutional Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England," *The Journal of Economic History*, 49:4 (Dec., 1989): 803-832.
- ^Avner Grief, "Reputation and Coalitions in Medieval Trade: Evidence on the Maghribi Traders," *The Journal of Economic History*, 49:4 (Dec., 1989): 857-882.
- \*De Long, J Bradford & Shleifer, Andrei, "Princes and Merchants: European City Growth before the Industrial Revolution," *Journal of Law and Economics*, 36:2 (1993): 671-702.
- ^Christoph Buchheim and Jonas Scherner, "The Role of Private Property in the Nazi Economy: The Case of Industry," *The Journal of Economic History* 66:2 (June, 2006): 390-416.
- ^Carmen M. Reinhart and Kenneth S. Rogoff, "Growth in a Time of Debt," *American Economic Review* 100:2 (2010): 573-578.

October 25: **Gender**

- \*Thomas Laqueur, "The Politics of Reproductive Biology," in: Robert Shoemaker and Mary Vincent, *Gender and History in Western Europe* (London: Arnold, 1998), 111-48.
- ^Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *American Historical Review* 91:4 (1986): 1053-1075.
- ^Bonnie G. Smith, "Gender and the Practices of Scientific History: The Seminar and Archival Research in the Nineteenth Century," *American Historical Review*, 100: 4 (October 1995): 1150-1176.
- Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourse," in: Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Ann Russo, and Lourdes Torres (eds.), *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991), 51-80 (via Mugar).
- ^Sharon Marcus, "Queer Theory for Everyone: A Review Essay," *Signs* 31:1 (Autumn 2005): 191-218.

November 1: **Eurocentrism**

Edward Said, *Orientalism*

- ^Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History: Who Speaks for 'Indian' Pasts?" *Representations* 37:2 (1992): 1-23

**Second Paper due**

November 8: **Illiberal Subjects**

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism: Ordinary Life in Extraordinary Times*

- \*Anna Krylova, "The Tenacious Liberal Subject in Soviet Studies" *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 1:1 (Winter 2000): 119-146.

November 15: **The Intimacies of Political Violence**

Group 1: David Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence*

Group 2: Jonathan Wiesen, *The Nazi Marketplace*

November 22: Thanksgiving holiday, no class

November 29: **History or Literature?**

- ^F. R. Ankersmit, "Historicism: An Attempt at Synthesis," *History and Theory* 34 (October, 1995): 143-161.
- ^John E. Toews, "Intellectual History after the Linguistic Turn: The Autonomy of Meaning and the Irreducibility of Experience," *The American Historical Review* 92:4 (1987): 879-907.
- \*Fredric Jameson, "Postmodernism, or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism," *New Left Review* 146 (July-August 1984): 52-92.
- \*Hayden White, "The Fictions of Factual Representation" in: Anna Green and Kathleen Troup (eds.), *The Houses of History: A Critical Reader in Twentieth-century History and Theory* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1999), 214-29; "The Value of Narrativity in the Representation of Reality," in: White, *The Content of the Form: Narrative Discourse and Historical Representation* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987), 1-15.
- \*The following chapters in Saul Friedlander (ed.), *Probing the Limits of Representation* (Harvard, 1992):
  - Hayden White, "Historical Emplotment and the Problem of Truth"
  - Carlo Ginzburg, "Just One Witness"
  - Martin Jay, "Of Plots, Witnesses, and Judgements"
  - Amos Funkenstein, "History, Counterhistory, and Narrative"

December 6: **Time Signatures**

- ^Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, aphorism #341
- \*Sigmund Freud, "Remembering, Repeating, and Working-Through" (1914), in: vol. 12, *Standard Edition* (1950), 145-157.
- \*Maurice Halbwachs, *On Collective Memory*, trans. Lewis A. Coser (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992), 37-83.
- \*Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi *Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1982), chapter 1.
- ^Amos Funkenstein, "Collective Memory and Historical Consciousness," *History and Memory* 1 (Spring/Summer, 1989): 5-26.

**Final paper due**