

HIGR 200

HISTORY AND THEORY



Fall 2017

Professor Deborah Hertz

Class meets Tuesdays 12:00–2:50 in HSS 6008

My office hours 10-11:30 Tuesdays in HSS 6024

Requirements

Students are expected to come to class weekly prepared for a vigorous conversation. Students should post a one paragraph commentary on the reading by 9 AM on the day of class on the Discussion Forum of the class web site on Triton Ed.

Students will submit an outline, a five-page section of their essay, and the final version of their essay on the dates assigned. Late work will not be accepted.

Book: Anna Green and Kathleen Troup, *The Houses of History: A Critical Reader in History and Theory*.

Second edition. (Manchester University Press, 2016). All references to book chapters refer to this class text. Students are encouraged to read widely on the various topics discussed in our weekly sessions but *The Houses of History* is the only assigned book.

Points toward final grade:

Discussion Forum, 24 points, 3 points per post and 8 required. Please write a cogent one paragraph summary of the reading with critical observations to stimulate class discussion.

Outline of essay plans, due October 17, 10 points. You will undoubtedly revise your outline many times as you do the research and writing of your essay.

First five pages of essay, due November 7, 20 points. This section from your work-in-progress may come from any place in your essay. The format, including footnotes, should be in final form, even if you change the content radically by the time you present the final version of your essay.

Final essay, 20 pages, due November 28, 50 points

Essay details

Your essay should be 20 pages in length, and you will be submitting versions of the essay in the form of an outline and a five-page sample of your writing before you turn in the final polished version. Use the University of Chicago style for your references.

The aim of the essay should be to deepen your historical knowledge of the terrain of your eventual dissertation, and also master one of the historical methods we survey in the course.

First choose a historical episode which interests you, and then choose a mode of historical method which is appropriate to this episode. Spend at least half of your essay describing the episode you have chosen, and devote the other half of the essay to interpreting the decisive issues in that episode according to your chosen method. You can of use any schema to insert interpretation into description. You are free to combine the passages devoted to historical description and the passages devoted to interpretation in any manner which suits you as a historian.

Course Schedule

October 3: *Introduction to the course*

October 10: *Fact and Fiction in Historical Narratives*

Read Chapter Two, 13-23, and Chapter Nine, entire chapter.

October 17: *Karl Marx and his Followers as Historians*

Read Chapter Three

Outline of essay due

October 24: *Using Psychology to Explore Individual Experience*

Read Chapter Four, entire chapter, and Chapter Fifteen, 403-415

October 31: *The French Contribution to Modern Historiography*

Read Chapter Five, entire chapter

November 7: *The Anthropological Turn*

Read Chapter Eight, entire chapter

Five pages of essay due. Pages may come from any section of the essay, and please enclose an outline that shows where your submitted pages fit into the entire essay plan.

November 14: *The Order of Time and Counterfactuals*

Read Chapter Seven, entire chapter

November 21: *The History of Women and the Gender of Symbols in History*

Read Chapter Ten, entire chapter, and Chapter Eleven, 300-319

November 28: *Transnational History in Late Colonialism*

Read Chapter Twelve, 320-332, and Chapter Thirteen, 355-373

Final version of essay due. Please post your essays on the class web site before you come to class today.

December 5: *Discussion of Student Essays*