HISTORY 4330: HISTORIOGRAPHY

The traditions and history of the writing of human history

Course objectives: The objectives of this history course are: (1) to guide students in the analyzing of passages of significant historical writing; (2) to create an understanding of the historical analysis of the impact of change upon world societies; (3) to recognize the sharing of techniques of historians through time and across space; (4) to recognize the variances of techniques of historians through time and across space; (5) to enable students to analyze historical problems; (6) to establish proficiency for students preparing for graduate school study in history; (7) to establish a sense of the chronology of written history as a basis for understanding other fields of study.

Dates to remember: Exam I – January 30
Exam II – February 20
April 10 - April 10
Written presentations due May 1
Comprehensive Final – May 10, 8:30 am

Text: Spikard et al. - WORLD HISTORY BY THE WORLD’S HISTORIANS

Students should keep pace with the historians cited by reading appropriate sections of the texts; students demonstrate their currency in a quiz covering these historians. Students are expected to deliver five 15-minute lectures and lead discussions on five historians during the semester; others in the class are expected to participate in the discussions. The professor leads a brief discussion on the remainder of the selections, though each student studies each historical sample. After two unexcused absences, the student’s grade will be lowered 5% of the final grade per absence to a total of 10%. Essay writing and objective questions characterize all examinations.

The first several classes are spent in lectures, followed by Exam I. Following Exam I, the class meets each Monday for discussion of the assigned chapters, student presentations, or written exams covering the fifty-six historians represented in the Spikard et al., volume. The Professor will preside over the division of topics.

Students should prepare five written submissions which cast into literary form the oral presentations which they have made in class; these are individual and unique to each student. Biographical and evaluatory references about each historian are necessary in addition to the texts. Benjamin’s A STUDENT’S GUIDE TO HISTORY, used in many earlier level history courses, contains information on the planning and execution of such a project.

Grading: Exam I - 10%
Classroom presentations 15%
Written Presentations 15%
Written exams 30%
Class attendance and participation in class discussion 10%
Final Exam 20%

January 20  1st meeting
January 23  lecture
January 25  lecture
January 27  lecture
January 30  Exam I
February 6  Hopi, Kaguru, Kumulipo, Sundiata, Genesis, Homer, Zhou
February 13 Hopodotus, Thucydides, Sima, Ban, Josephus, Tacitus
February 20 Luke, Eusebius, Al Tabari, Kalhana, Cuauhtitlan
February 27 Exam II
March 6  Gregory, Bede, Comnena, Guang, Khaldun, Fazl
March 20 Gulbadan, Hakuseki, Machiavelli, Guicciardini, Bradford
March 27 Aztecs & Mayan, Voltaire, Gibbon, Macaulay, Martineau, Dutt
April 3  Johnson, Yukichi, Liang & Hu, von Ranke, Marx, Weber
April 10 Exam III
April 17 Turner, da Cunha, Pakikkar, Dike, Beards
April 24 Bloch, Kunio, Braudel, Fogel, Blassingame, Thompson
May 1  Bynum, David, Rodney, Himmelfarb, Said