History 421

Honors Historical Methods

Dr. Melinda Zook
Phone: 494-4134
Email: mzook@purdue.edu
Office: University Hall 327
Office hours: Wednesdays, 11:30-12:30 & by appointment

Fall 2011
Univ. Hall 319
MWF, 1:30-2:20

Course Description

This course is a prequel to History 422 (Honors Thesis in Historical Research) and is designed to introduce Honors students to the tools of the historian’s craft and prepare them to write their Honors’ Thesis. The course is divided into two halves. In the first part of the semester, students will examine the various interpretative approaches available to historians and review the methods of cultural, social, global, military, ethnic, and gender history. Students will also visit Purdue’s Humanities and Social Sciences Library where they will meet with the History Librarian, Larry Mykytuik, to learn about conducting research here at Purdue as well as how to use internet sources. Students are also required to find a topic for their Honors Thesis and a faculty mentor who agrees to guide them during the spring semester (History 422). In the second half of the semester, students will devote their time to locating their primary and secondary sources, building a bibliography, and writing an abstract of their project.

Required Texts

Michael C.C. Adams, The Best War Ever: America and World War II
Kate Summerscale, The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher
Carlo Ginsburg, The Cheese and the Worms

Other source materials (provided by the Professor Zook)

Including,
The Human Stain (DVD)
Benjamin Madley, “From Terror to Genocide: Britain’s Tasmanian Penal Colony and Australia’s History Wars,” Journal of British Studies 47 (January 2008): 77-106

Requirements

A) In the beginning of the semester: students will write short (2-3 pages) essays every week.

B) By the end of the semester: students will have chosen a topic for their Honors’ Thesis and a
faculty mentor or mentors; they will have completed an abstract (7-8 pages) detailing what they intend to investigate and how they will proceed during the spring semester; and an extensive bibliography of at least 25 primary and secondary sources.

C) During the last two weeks of the semester, students will present their work-in-progress to the class.

D) Attendance at all class meetings is MANDATORY. Each class missed will result in the loss of a half-grade.

Rules of the Game:

Never walk into class late. Turn off all cell-phones and pagers once you enter the class room. If you use a laptop during class, you may only use a word processing program (absolutely no internet).

Use proper email etiquette (an email should begin with a salutation such as “Dear Professor X;” and end with a proper closing, such as “Sincerely” or “Yours.”).

Students who plagiarize any portion of their written assignments will be removed from this course, the Honors program, and the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Also, keep in mind: In the event of a major campus emergency, the above policies are subject to change.

Final Grades will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract &amp; bibliography</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Papers</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, AND READINGS

Monday, Aug. 22

**Introduction to History Honors**
Welcome to the Honors Experience

Wednesday, Aug. 24

**History & the Culture Wars**
Friday, Aug. 26  
History, politics, populism and popular memory

Monday, Aug. 29  
**History in Crisis: The Enola Gay Debacle**  

Wednesday, Aug. 31  
Patriotism, Bias, & Objectivity

Friday, Sept. 2  
Honors Homecoming and Open House

Monday, Sept. 5  
Labor Day (No Classes)

Wed-Fri, Sept. 7-9  
**Is this History?**  
Discussion of Kate Summerscale, *The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher*

Monday, Sept. 12  
Meet with History Librarian, Larry Mykytiuk

Wed-Fri, Sept. 14-16  
**World War II & Popular Memory**  
Discussion of Michael C.C. Adams, *The Best War Ever: America and World War II*

Mon. Sept.19  
Social History and Micro-history

Wed-Fri, Sept. 21-23  
Discussion Carol Ginsburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*

Monday, Sept. 26  
**Going Global**  
Benjamin Madley, “From Terror to Genocide: Britain’s Tasmanian
Penal Colony and Australia’s History Wars,” *Journal of British Studies* 47 (January 2008): 77-106

**Wed-Fri, Sept. 28-30**

**What kind of History is this?**

Watch *The Human Stain*

**Monday, Oct. 3**

**Discussion of *The Human Stain***

**Wednesday, Oct. 5**

**Researching and Writing the Honors Thesis**

**Friday, Oct. 7**

**Library Day (No Class)**

**October 10**

**October Break (No Classes)**

**Wednesday, Oct. 12**

**Finish all remaining Business**

**Oct. 14-Nov. 29**

**No Classes. Students research their project and prepare their abstract and bibliography**

[I will be emailing you regularly; I may set up individual meetings to discuss your project. I may also call for all of us to meet at our regular class time.]

**Nov. 28-Dec. 9**

**Class: Individual presentations**