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Welcome ASSOC PROF Ian Gordon 

2010/2011, Special Term I, Week 6

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**HY4101**  
**HISTORIOGRAPHY AND HISTORICAL METHOD (2011/2012, Semester 1)**


**Module**

**Module Outline**


HY4101 : HISTORIOGRAPHY AND HISTORICAL METHOD 



Created: 04-Jul-2005, Updated: 15-Jun-2011

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<b>Module Code</b>	HY4101		
<b>Module Title</b>	HISTORIOGRAPHY AND HISTORICAL METHOD		
<b>Semester</b>	Semester 1, 2011/2012		
<b>Modular Credits</b>	5		
<b>Faculty</b>	Arts & Social Sciences		
<b>Department</b>	History		
<b>Tags</b>	--		
<b>Teaching Staff</b>		ASSOC PROF Ian Gordon	hisilg@nus.edu.sg Lecturer
<b>Weblinks</b>			

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**Aims & Objectives**

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This semester we will concentrate on the main schools of historical writing in the 19th and 20th centuries, but with attention to traditional approaches to history in East and Southeast Asia as well. We will read a mixture of original texts and scholarly articles engaging the most important authors in the field. We will learn about the main ways in which earlier approaches and assumptions have been questioned by scholars in recent decades.

**Prerequisites**

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This module is open only to students in the History and European Studies Honours cohorts.

**Teaching Modes**

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The module will be conducted in a seminar style. Students will be divided into groups to do a presentation. Frequent and unannounced pop quizzes will be given in class to ascertain that students have done the reading for each week.

**Syllabus**

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**Seminar One: Introduction. August 17**

- E. H. Carr, *What is History?*, London: Macmillan, 1961, pp. 7-30.
- David Lowenthal, *The Past is a Foreign Country*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985, pp. 210-238.
- Alun Munslow, *Deconstructing History*, New York: Routledge, 1997, pp. 17-35.

**Seminar Two: Asian Historiographical Traditions. August 24**

John S. Brownlee, "Traditions of Japanese Historical Writing," in John S. Brownlee ed., *History in the Service of the Japanese Nation* Toronto: University of Toronto-York University, Joint Centre on Modern East Asia, 1983, pp 1-17.

Grant Hardy, *Worlds of Bronze and Bamboo*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1999, pp. 1-26

Charvit Kasetsiri, "Thai Historiography from Ancient Times to the Modern Period", in Anthony Reid and David Marr ed., *Perceptions of the Past in Southeast Asia*, Singapore: Heinemann, 1979, pp. 156-170.

John Tosh, *Pursuit of History*, New York: Longman, 2000, pp. 17-35.

**Seminar Three: European Historiography: Middle Ages to Enlightenment. August 31**

Ernst Breisach, *Historiography Ancient Medieval, & Modern*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983, pp. 153-170.

R. G. Collingwood, *The Idea of History*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1956, pp. 46-85.

Karen O'Brien, *Narratives of Enlightenment*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997, pp. 1-20.

Compare and Contrast with: Sima Qian, *Records of the Grand Historian*, Hong Kong: New York: Renditions-Columbia University Press, 1993, pp. 179-206.

**Seminar Four: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Europe: Rise of Historicism and Positivism. September 7.**

Giambattista Vico, *Selected Writings*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1982, pp. 102-38

Alexis De Tocqueville, *The Old Regime and the Revolution*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, [1856] 1998, pp. 83-89, 241-247.

Anthony Grafton, *The Footnote: A Curious History*, Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press, 1997, pp. 34-61.

Jean Jacques Rousseau, *On the Origin of Inequality, (1754) selections (to download from Workbin)*

**Seminar Five: Constructionist Alternatives: Marxism and the Annales School. September 14.**

W. L. Adamson, "Marxism and Historical Thought," in Lloyd Kramer and Sarah Maza ed., *Companion to Western Historical Thought*, Malden, Mass. : Blackwell Publishers, 2006, pp. 205-222.

Peter Burke, *The French Historical Revolution*, Cambridge: Polity, 1990, pp. 12-31.

Ferdinand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World*, New York: Harper and Row, 1966, pp. 17-53.

Leopold von Ranke, *The Secret of World History*, New York: Fordham University Press, 1981, pp. 55-98.

**Reading during the break: Edward Said, *Orientalism*, New York: Vintage Books, 1978, pp. 31-92.**

Because the Provost has cancelled all classes on August 10 you need to read this selection over the break. Also because October 26 is a public holiday you will need to do the reading for the discussion on two sets of presentations on postmodernism. With this fair warning (it's May 25 as I write) I expect students to cope with this load and plan their time accordingly.

**Seminar Six and Seminar Seven: September 28.**

**Double Presentation Week**

**Postmodernism I: Foucault.**

Mark Poster, "Foucault and History," *Social Research* 49, 1 (1982): 116-142.

Michel Foucault, *History of Madness*, New York : Routledge, (1961) 2009, pp. 419-462.

Michel Foucault, "the Means of Correct Training," from *Discipline and Punish*, New York: Vintage, 1977, pp. 170-194. [In E-Reserves under Philip Bean ed.]

Karl Marx, *Communist Manifesto*, [1848] <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/>

**Postmodernism II: Hayden White and the Debate over Narrative.**

Hayden White, *Metahistory*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973, pp. 1-42.

Hayden White, *Tropics of Discourse*, Baltimore : Johns Hopkins University Press , 1978, pp. 121-134.

Michel Foucault, "On the Ways of Writing History," in *Aesthetics, Method, and Epistemology*. New York: New Press, 1998, pp. 279-295.

**Seminar Eight: Postcolonialism I: "The Empire Writes Back" October 5.**

Robert Young, *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction*, Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 2001, pp. 57-69.

Terrence Ranger, "The Invention of Tradition in Colonial Africa", in Eric Hobsbawm & Terrence Ranger ed., *The Invention of Tradition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983, pp. 211-262.

Kerry Stoler, "Sexual Affronts and Racial Frontiers," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 34, no.3, (July 1992): 514-551. (download through JSTOR <http://www.jstor.org.libproxy1.nus.edu.sg/stable/pdfplus/178850.pdf>)

**Seminar Nine: Postcolonialism II: In Search of the Subaltern. October 12.**

Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Habitations of Modernity*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002, pp. 3-19.

Chatterjee, Partha. "Agrarian Relations and Communalism in Bengal, 1926-1935," in Ranajit Guha ed., *Subaltern Studies I: Writings on South Asian History and Society*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1996, pp. 9-38.

Hanneke Ming, "Barracks-Concubinage in the Indies, 1887-1920," *Indonesia*, 35, (April 1983): 65-94. (download through [http://cip.cornell.edu.libproxy1.nus.edu.sg/DPubS?service=Repository&version=1.0&verb=Disseminate&handle=seap.indo/1107018102&view=body&content-type=pdf\\_1#](http://cip.cornell.edu.libproxy1.nus.edu.sg/DPubS?service=Repository&version=1.0&verb=Disseminate&handle=seap.indo/1107018102&view=body&content-type=pdf_1#))

David Ludden, "Orientalist Empiricism: Transformations of Colonial Knowledge" in Carol A. Breckenridge and Peter van der Veer. eds., *Orientalism and the Postcolonial Predicament*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1993, pp. 250-278.

**Seminar Ten: Listening to New Voices: Looking at Class, Gender, and Culture. October 19.**

Natalie Zemon Davis, *Society and Culture in Early Modern France*, Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1975, pp. 124-151.

Eric R. Wolf, *Europe and the People without History*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982, pp. 3-23.

Joan Judge, "Talent, Virtue and the Nation," *American Historical Review*, 106, 3, (June 2001): 765-803. (<http://www.jstor.org.libproxy1.nus.edu.sg/stable/pdfplus/2692323.pdf>)

Ranajit Guha, *The Prose of Counter-Insurgency*, *Subaltern Studies II*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1996, pp. 1-42.

Catherine Hall, "Gender Divisions and Class Formation in the Birmingham Middle Class, 1780-1850," in Anna Green & Kathleen Troup ed., *The Houses of History*, New York: New York University Press, 1999, pp. 263-276.

**October 26 Public Holiday**

**Seminar Eleven: Nationalism, Ideology, and Identity in Asian Historiography. November 2.**

Thongchai Winichakul, *Siam Mapped*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1994, pp. 1-19.

Prasenjit Duara, *Rescuing History from the Nation*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995, pp. 51-82.

Patricia M. Pelley, *Postcolonial Vietnam*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2002, pp. 69-112.

**Seminar Twelve: Wrap-up. November 9.**

Georg G. Iggers and Q. Edward Wang, *A Global History of Modern Historiography*, New York: Pearson Longman, 2008, pp. 364-401.

John S. Brownlee, *Japanese Historians and the National Myths, 1600-1945*, Vancouver: UBC Press, 1997, pp. 131-179.

Hong Lysa and Huang Jianli, *The Scripting of a National History*, Singapore: NUS Press, 2008, pp. 13-29.

**Assessment**

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There will be two writing assignments of approximately 2000 words each. One will be a book review, the other will be a reaction piece focusing on a particular article. Each of these assignments will be worth 25%. Participation in classroom discussion will be worth 20% (10% for presentation), and the final exam will be worth 30%.

**Text & Readings**

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All readings for the module are listed under the Syllabus and they will be in the Library E-Reserves on IVLE.

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