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2010/2011, Special Term I, Week 6

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Created: 03-Jun-2010, Updated: 25-May-2011

Module Code	HY6101	
Module Title	HISTORIOGRAPHY: THEORY & ARCHIVE	
Semester	Semester 1, 2011/2012	
Modular Credits	4	
Faculty	Arts & Social Sciences	
Department	History	
Tags	--	
Teaching Staff	ASSOC PROF Ian Gordon	hisilg@nus.edu.sg Lecturer
Weblinks	Plagiarism Policy http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/undergrad/toknow/policies/plagiarism.html	

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This module is designed to introduce new graduate students in History to the the practice of history. This is not meant to be a comprehensive programme to prepare students for a chronological or regional specialization but rather to discuss a wide range of contemporary questions and debates in the discipline and as well as in the practice of History. The focus will be on historical works as well as historians; current debates about historical practice, theoretical history and historical interpretation in Western historiography as well as reviewing some historiographical contributions fields of Middle East/South Asian and Southeast Asian historiography. It is hoped that students will explore the challenges inherent in connecting archival study with theoretical methodologies, and well as the epistemological questions that confront all students of History.

The course also prepares graduate students for a future career in academia. As part of your requirements for this course, you will be asked apply the theoretical knowledge learned in the class for a literature review of your field of interest. You will also be asked to prepare a bibliography for your research as well as construct a course outline for a future course you might teach.

Prerequisites[Top](#)

Admission is subject to the Department's approval. Please contact Ms Gayathri D/O Dorairaju, the administrator for the history Graduate Programme for more information. She can be reached at hisgd@nus.edu.sg

IMPORTANT

For those of you who do not have a basic understanding of the philosophy of History, I would suggest buying the textbook assigned for this class:

M C Lemon, *Philosophy of History: A Guide for Students*, London and New York: Routledge, 2003.

Another useful text is: Marnie Hughes-Warrington, *Fifty key thinkers on history*. London: Routledge, 2000.

Teaching Modes

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This is a graduate seminar and students are expected to actively discuss the assigned book for the week. Each week, a student will be assigned to lead the discussion of the readings. Students will be expected to discuss the main arguments presented by the author and provide a thorough and critical analysis of the strengths and problems of the book.

Schedule

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Introduction

Aug: Introduction to course objectives, format of seminars, assessment criteria and modes of assessment. (We shall meet before August 17 at a day and time to be announced. Unfortunately the Provost has cancelled all classes on August 10).

Section 1: The Nature of History

17 Aug: E.H. Carr, *What is History*, London: St Martin's Press, 1961.

24 Aug: Richard J. Evans, *In Defence of History*, London: Granta Books, 1997.

31 Aug: Keith Jenkins (ed.), *The Postmodern History Reader*, London: Routledge, 1996.

7 Sep: Self directed visit to a History Museum. Use this visit to think about how you would incorporate a Museum visit or field trip into your syllabus.

14 Sep: Geoff Eley, *A Crooked Line: From Cultural History to the History of Society*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2005.

21 Sep: RECESS WEEK

Section 2: Is History Fiction?

28 Sep: Eric Hobsbawm & Terence Ranger (eds.), *The Invention of Tradition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.

5 Oct: Roy Porter, *Gibbon: Making History*, New York: St Martin's Press, 1983.

12 Oct: Natalie Zemon Davies, *The Return of Martin Guerre*, London: Harvard University Press, 2001

Section 3: Asian Historiographies

19 Oct: Edward Said, *Orientalism*, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1978.

26 Oct: Public Holiday

3 Nov: Bernard S. Cohn, *Colonialism and its Forms of Knowledge*, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1996.

10 Nov: Peter Zinoman: *The Colonial Bastille: A History of Imprisonment in Vietnam, 1862-1940*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

Syllabus

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The course is divided into three major sections:

1. Nature of History
2. Is History Fiction? Challenges to Historical Practice
3. Asian Historiographies

The reading requirements for this class is heavy. Students are required to read a book a week in the order prescribed in the schedule. Moreover, students will also be encouraged to read additional chapters in the prescribed textbook to understand developments in the philosophy of history.

All the books can be found in the Central Library RBR (Reserve Books).

If you are unsure how to access the RBR, please see the library staff for help.

It will also be helpful for those of you who have no knowledge of historiography to buy the following textbook:

M C Lemon, *The Philosophy of History: A Guide for Students*, London: Routledge, 2003. You can probably get a secondhand copy from former History students. Ask around.

Assessment

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This module is 100% Continuous Assessment.

There are NO exams associated with HY6101.

The assessment is as follows:

- 2 x Section Reviews (1000 words each) 30%
- Syllabus Project 10%
- Bibliography Project 15%
- Essay (5,000 words) 25%
- Class participation 20%

Written work

There are 5 written assignments in this class. Each student is expected to do 2 section reviews, a syllabus project, an annotated bibliography and a 5,000 word term paper.

Section Review: The class is divided into three sections which are listed in the schedule above.

Students are expected to write a thousand word essay pulling together common themes and/or analysing the debates found in the books in the section. It is not meant to be a review of each book in that section but an analytical exercise in drawing out interesting historiographical issues for assessment and debate. You must do a review of the first section and either Section 2 or 3.

Syllabus: You are required to construct a 13-week undergraduate course syllabus in your field of study. You are preparing for a second-year undergraduate module and need to establish a broad course which will also provide some depth of knowledge. You will be assessed for the coherence of the course in terms of lectures, reading and tutorials as well as assessments. You will distribute your syllabus to each member of the class and we will have a session reviewing each person's syllabus during the assigned class session. Think about how you would use a field trip in such a syllabus and what sort of

reading you need to accompany such a trip.

Annotated Bibliography: You will be required to prepare an annotated bibliography relating to your thesis. I would recommend dividing the bibliography into different sections aligned to the different themes in the book. Realistically, most of you will be starting to read widely in your subject area about now. As such, it will be impossible for you to write an annotation for each book, and not the purpose of this exercise. Instead, I would like you to divide the bibliography into thematic sections that will enable you to clarify what themes you will be using in your thesis, and why these themes are important. It will also provide you with the opportunity to look for your primary source material. Please feel free to discuss this with your supervisor because this is an important part of the thesis-writing process.

Term Paper: This is a 5,000-word paper. Students are encouraged to use this opportunity to formulate their literature review which can be used as part of your future thesis. You can also write a historiographical essay of your choice. If so, please come and discuss your question with me before starting work on the essay. **Class Participation** Class participation is crucial to your overall grade. Each week one or two students will be assigned to lead a discussion. The discussion leader is expected to draw out the main thrust of each book as well as discuss key questions found within the book. Depending on the class size, you may be required to lead up to 2 discussions. You will also be graded for your participation in all class discussions.

DEADLINES

10 Sep: Syllabus project & Annotated Bibliography project

29 Sep: First section review

20 Oct: Section 2 review (only for those reviewing section 2)

3 Nov: 5,000 word final essay

6 Nov: Section Review 3 (only for those reviewing section 3)

The two section reviews and the final essay must be submitted in a hard copy and a soft copy through turnitin.com.

To submit a soft copy go here: <http://www.cit.nus.edu.sg/plagiarism-prevention/>

Log in with your student id. Then at turnitin page use the following:

Course ID: 3304342

Password: 6101

Workload

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