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.

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

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.

Seminar One: Introduction. August 17

Seminar Two: Asian Historiographical Traditions. August 24
Grant Hardy, Worlds of Bronze and Bamboo, New York: Columbia University Press, 1999, pp 1-26

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


Giambattista Vico, Selected Writings, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1982, pp. 102-38
Jean Jacques Rousseau, On the Origin of Inequality, (1754) selections (to download from Workbin)


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.

Postmodernism II: Hayden White and the Debate over Narrative.


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

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

October 26 Public Holiday


Assessment

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

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