

HH7109

Special Topics in Historiography

Coordinator: Koh Keng We
History Programme, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Course coordinator's office: HSS 05-10
Course coordinator's email: kohkw@ntu.edu.sg

Introduction

This course examines classics in different fields of history, to explore the major themes and issues in the field, and key works and methodologies, as a way of engaging the graduate student's own research, and situating them within the contours of historiography. Through these explorations, we shall also survey the shifting contours of history and historiography in different in terms of methods/methodologies, source materials, and the questions that we bring to bear in these fields.

Aims and Objectives

On the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Display a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the range of issues, methodologies, and source materials used in these works and the field of history;
- Offer constructive criticisms of existing works of history and their historiographical foundations;
- Enhance critical thinking and analytical capacities.

Requirements

- Students are required to attend each seminar and to participate in the discussion.
- Students are to submit 3 short response papers to the required readings (max. 1000 words each), to be submitted by 5 pm the day before the course. The response papers should engage the themes highlighted in the required readings for each week, and the question guides provided by each speaker.
- Students are to submit a final research paper (5000 words) engaging the historiographical and methodological issues raised by the readings (both those discussed in class and those that are not) apply to their potential thesis topic (to be submitted by November 14th, 2022)

Assessment

100% Continuous Assessment including

- (1) Three short response papers (max. 1000 words each) (30%)
- (2) One final research paper (5000 (40%))
- (3) Seminar attendance and participation; Leading of reading discussions; (30%)

Special Note:

Classes might be held outside NTU in a café or different places/spaces.

Seminar Readings

Week 1: Bloch, M. 1954. *The Historian's Craft*. Translated by P. Putnam. Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press.

or

Febvre, L. 1973. *New Kind of History: From the Writings of Febvre*. Translated by K. Folca. London: Routledge.

Week 2: Karl Polanyi. *The Great Transformation : The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. 2nd Beacon Paperback ed. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2001.

Week 3: Pomeranz, Ken. *The Great Divergence*.

Week 4: Jack Goody, *The East in the West*. Cambridge New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Week 5: Sahlins, Marshall. *How "Natives" Think : About Captain Cook, for Example*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

Week 6: Ginzburg, C. 1980. *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth Century Miller*. Translated by J. Tedeschi and A. Tedeschi. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.*

Week 7: Lambourn, Elizabeth. Abraham's luggage: A social life of things in the medieval India Ocean world

Week 8: Stoler, A. L. 2008. *Along the Archival Grain: Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Week 10: Harper, Tim. *Underground Asia : Global Revolutionaries and the Assault on Empire*. First Harvard University Press edition

Week 11: Partha Chatterjee, *The Nation and Its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993)

Week 12: Terenjit Sevea. *Miracles and Material Life: Rice, Ore, Taps and Guns in Islamic Malaya*. Cambridge University Press. 2020.

Week 13: Graeber, David and David Wengrow. *The Beginning of Everything. A New History of Humanity*.