

## HISTORY 489

### *Historical Literature*

(aka "*Historiography*")

**Instructor:** Edwin B. DeWindt, LMS, PhD, FRHistS

**Office:** B320

**Phone:** (313) 993-1098

**Hours:** T 01:00-2:30 2004-2005  
R 12:30-3:00

*Texts* (all available at ABC Bookstore):

Donald R. Kelley, *Faces of History*

George G. Iggers, *Historiography in the Twentieth Century*

Donald R. Kelley, ed. *Versions of History from Antiquity to the Enlightenment*

Fritz Stern, *The Varieties of History, from Voltaire to Present*

Peter Burke, *New Perspectives on Historical Writing, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Edition*

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

**THE PURPOSE** of this course is to provide an overview of the writing of history, from the Greeks to the present day. To accomplish this within a reasonable time frame, class sessions will concentrate on student reports on, and full class discussions of, selected texts excerpted from major historians, beginning with Herodotus and continuing down to the present day. Accompanying these discussions of primary texts are three books (Kelley's *Faces of History*, Iggers' *Historiography in the Twentieth Century*, and Burke's *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*) that are to be read in their entirety and whose observations and comments are to be integrated into the in-class discussions of specific writers. In other words, the three books help to provide a context into which the several historians under discussion can fit (assuming they fit at all). We will not be able, given time constraints, to read and discuss *all* the writers anthologized in the two other books of readings (Kelley's *Versions of History* and Stern's *The Varieties of History*), but an attempt will be made to deal with a representative sample.

### GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

The most crucial assignment is to read all the texts assigned in the calendar (below) and be prepared to report on and discuss them in class. Part of the grade for the course, therefore will be based on student fulfillment of that requirement and active involvement in class discussions. (This means that if a person does not attend class,

it can reasonably be assumed that he/she is not serious about the endeavor and will therefore receive a grade appropriate to his/her lack of involvement.)

Beyond participating in class discussions, however, there is another assignment that will take time and careful thought. It is a major research paper, containing a minimum of 3500 words (typed, double-spaced, with proper grammar and spelling), that will focus exclusively on the writing(s) of ONE historian from either the past or present. That person's work is to be analyzed as to its content, its method(s), the kinds of questions being addressed and the sources employed to answer those questions. The paper will also consider to what extent the chosen writer is (or is not) a representative of his own time period. In other words, does the writer fit into a broader context of contemporary historical inquiry or is he/she a maverick or unique? In the case of writers who have left only one major work, that is to be read. For writers who have produced more than one work, at least *TWO* are to be read. In the case of present-day historians, both books and articles in journals are to be investigated, since each represents distinctively different ways of presenting material and ideas.

#### **WHOM DO I CHOOSE TO INVESTIGATE?**

The selection of a writer for the research paper is left to each student. Writers may be chosen from any of those whose works are excerpted in the anthologies of Kelley or Stern, OR from any other historical writers mentioned or discussed by Kelley, Iggers or Burke in their general overviews. In addition, students may propose examining the work of historians NOT mentioned in any of the above but whose books are on display in any halfway decent bookstore (*e.g.* Borders, Barnes and Noble, etc.). Whoever is chosen, however, is to be subjected to the same intensive examination that attempts to discover what *kind* of historian is he/she, what are his/her *preconceptions* and/or *preoccupations*, and *how* does he/she go about building a picture of the past?

**THE RESEARCH PAPER WILL BE DUE NO LATER THAN NOON OF THE DAY SCHEDULED FOR THE FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THIS COURSE.**

***Special Note:* THERE IS NO FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THIS COURSE.**

## CALENDAR

- January 8:** Introduction
- January 10:** NO CLASS. Start reading: Kelley, *Faces*, Chapters 1-2; Kelley, *Versions*, Chapters 1-2; Burke, *New Perspectives* (all)
- January 15:** Discussions of writers in Kelley, *Versions*, Ch. 1-2
- January 17:** “ “ “
- January 22:** Discussions of writers in Kelley, *Versions*, Ch. 3-4;  
Additional Reading: Kelley, *Faces*, Ch. 3-4
- January 24:** “ “ “
- January 29:** Discussions of writers in Kelley, *Versions*, Ch. 5  
Additional Reading: Kelley, *Faces*, Ch. 5
- January 31:** “ “ “
- February 5:** Discussions of writers in Kelley, *Versions*, Ch. 6-7  
Additional Reading: Kelley, *Faces*, Ch. 6-7
- February 7:** “ “ “
- February 12:** Discussion of writers in Kelley, *Versions*, Ch. 8  
Additional Reading: Kelley, *Faces*, Ch. 8
- February 14:** “ “ “
- February 19:** Discussion of writers in Kelley, *Versions*, Ch. 9  
Additional Reading: Kelley, *Faces*, Ch. 9-10
- February 21:** “ “ “
- February 26:** Discussions of writers in Kelley, *Versions*, Ch. 10, and Stern, *Varieties*, Part I, Ch. 1-2
- February 28:** “ “ “

- March 12:** Discussions of writers in Stern, Part I, Ch. 3  
Additional Reading: Iggers, Introduction, Ch. 1
- March 14:** “ “ “
- March 19:** Discussion of writers in Stern, Part I, Ch. 4-14  
Additional Reading: Iggers, Ch. 2-4
- March 21:** “ “ “
- March 26:** Discussion of writers in Stern, Part II, Ch. 1-15  
Additional Reading: Iggers, Ch. 5-7
- March 28:** “ “ “
- April 2:** Discussion of Iggers, Ch. 8-11, and Burke, Ch. 1-6
- April 4:** Discussion of Burke, Ch. 7-12

**FROM THIS DATE ON, CLASS WILL NO LONGER MEET.  
INSTEAD, THE INSTRUCTOR WILL BE IN HIS OFFICE (M,W, 9:00-3:00,  
T, 9:00-8:00 P.M., R, 9:00-3:00) TO ASSIST STUDENTS IN THE WRITING OF  
THE RESEARCH PAPER.**

**FINAL EXAM WEEK:**

**Paper is due NO LATER than NOON of the day scheduled for  
the Final Examination. Any paper handed in AFTER that time  
will not be accepted, and a grade of “F” will be assigned.**