Instructor: Dr. Barbara Naddeo  
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Class Meetings:  
T 6:30—8:30 p.m.  
GC 5/????

Course Description and Learning Outcomes: This seminar introduces graduate students to the many schools of the contemporary discipline of history and their particular methodologies. To that end, each week this seminar presents one of the many influential theories that have shaped the discipline over the last few decades as well as selections from exemplary histories informed by them. As a result, students will gain familiarity with influential work from other disciplines and learn how that work has contributed to the formulation of subjects and research questions for historical inquiry. Among the many theories and historical practices, in Fall 2017 topics will include studies of class, culture, language, the public sphere, civility, gender and sex, the emotions, the nation, transnational groups, globalization, human rights, information, the environment and the anthropocene.

Beyond obtaining extensive knowledge of the variety of theories and historical practices, students will additionally learn to reason historically and exercise the arts of historical criticism both in seminar discussion and in writing.

Course Format: The format of this course is that of a seminar. Consequently, it is expected that everyone will regularly attend class and come well prepared to discuss the readings specifically assigned for class discussion. Likewise, regular attendance and in-class participation will be factored into final grades.

In preparation for class, please be sure to read and take notes on the assigned texts in their entirety and to come with observations and questions to share. When reading the histories for this course, please specifically note the following about each study: 1) its methodology; 2) its object of historical inquiry; 3) its question and argument; 4) the significance of its question/argument for the selection and treatment of sources, as well as the periodization and temporal structure of the study; 5) its purported contribution to the historiographical debate, and, most importantly, 6) the ways in which the study engages—or even falls short of, or challenges—the theoretical literature that has shaped its methodology. These questions will structure our discussion of the historiography considered in this course.

In order to maintain a congenial atmosphere and productive dialogue in the classroom it is also expected that all students will seek to promote our conversation by carefully listening to one another and exchanging ideas in a collegial manner.

Requirements: To receive a grade for this class, beyond regular attendance and participation the requirements also include the completion of two assignments: one 3-4 page report on an additional (“further”) reading for oral presentation, and one 12-15 page essay on the historiography for one of the topics for this course.
Paper Topics, Format and Style: For the final papers, the instructor will provide a number of suggested topics; however, students are encouraged to formulate independent paper topics in consultation with the instructor. As a rule of thumb, all papers should consider "at least" 3-4 histories on the syllabus for this course. When conceptualizing your paper, please bear in mind that it is the primary objective of the writing exercise to identify and analyze the methodology and use of evidence of a number of the histories considered. When analyzing those histories, the paper should thus consider all of the questions for discussion enumerated above as well as offer an assessment of the same histories that plainly notes and accounts for their particular insights and exclusions.

Final Grades: Final grades will be calculated as follows: 25% for attendance and in-class participation, 25% for the oral report, and 50% for the final paper.

In general, I encourage all of you to be active participants in this class, since only our collective efforts will most vividly reconstruct the periods illustrated by our readings.

Course Readings:

Students are expected to obtain a copy of all the required readings for this course--that is, copies of those readings that list under the unqualified categories of "Theory" and "Historiography."

As a point of clarification, please note that all readings qualified by the adjective "further" are "optional"; they locate on the syllabus for your information and comprise materials for the oral reports and bibliographical suggestions for the final papers.

Next to each of these readings I have put one of the following annotations, to indicate the place where you can procure a copy: "(e-resource)," for books that are available to the CUNY community in electronic format through the Library’s electronic catalogue, “OneSearch”; “(JSTOR)," for articles available to the CUNY community in electronic format through the Library’s subscription to the database JSTOR; "(Blackboard)," for short readings that are archived on our site; "(purchase)," for readings that are only available to the CUNY community in book format.

However, it is understood that each student will purchase books for this course according to their particular interests and financial resources, if at all. When making their purchasing decisions, each student should bear in mind that a single copy of each required reading for this class locates on reserve in Mina Rees Library, if it is not already available to the CUNY community as an electronic resource. Next to those readings you can find their call numbers, to facilitate your borrowing of those resources from the CUNY Library system, as needed; additional copies of most required physical books for this class are also available through other CUNY libraries, and they can be ordered and borrowed for much of the semester through the CLICS system, which can (usually) deliver books requested from other CUNY campuses to the GC in the course of a few business days. In any case, should you wish to acquire the books for this course please know that the following required readings are not available as electronic resources to the CUNY community through the Library system, and, therefore, will have to be acquired and consulted in book format one way or the other.

Books for Class Discussion (not available as CUNY e-resources, but on reserve)

Juergen Habermas, The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere.
Roger Chartier, The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution
Paula Findlen, Possessing Nature: Museums, Collection, and Scientific Culture in Early Modern Italy.
Joan Landes, *Women and the Public Sphere in the Age of the French Revolution.*  
Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality,* vol. 1.  
Thomas Laquer, *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud.*  
Elizabeth Yale, *Sociable Knowledge.*  
Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence.*  
Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents.*

**Course Topics Outline**

**Week One.**

**Tuesday, 29 August:** An introduction to the course and historical methodologies.

**Week Two.** “Studies of Class: Marxism and History.”

**Tuesday, 5 September.**  

**Week Three.** “Studies of Culture: Anthropology and History.”

**Tuesday, 12 September.**  
**Theory:** Victor Turner, “Social Dramas and Ritual Metaphors,” in *The Ritual Process.* (Blackboard) [GN473 .T82]  
**Historiography:** Ed Muir, “A Republic of Processions,” in *Civic Ritual in Renaissance Venice.* (Blackboard) [G678.235 .M83]  
**Further Historiography (Optional):** Natalie Zemon Davis, “The Reasons of Misrule” and “The Rites of Violence” both first published in *Past and Present* (JSTOR) and re-published in *Society and Culture in Early Modern France.* [DC33 .D33]  

**Week Four.** “Studies of Language: (Post-)Structuralism and History.”

**Tuesday, 26 September.**
Michel Foucault, “Truth and Power: An Interview with Michael Foucault” in *Critique of Anthropology* (January 1979) 4:131-137. (JSTOR)


Historiography: Jacob Soll, *Publishing the Prince: History, Reading and the Birth of Political Criticism*, skim entire. (CUNY eresource) OR


Week Five. “Studies of the Public Sphere: Communications Theory and History.”

Tuesday, 3 October.

Theory: Juergen Habermas, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*, chs. 3-5, 7-9, 12. (purchase) [HM24 H2713 1991]


Further Historiography (Optional): Arlette Farge, *Subversive Words: Public Opinion in Eighteenth-Century France*. [ON ORDER]

Week Six. “Studies of Civilité and Taste: Cultural Sociology and History.”

Tuesday, 10 October.


Daniel Margoscy, *Commercial Visions*, esp. chs. 2, 4 and 5. (purchase) [ON ORDER: Q127 N2 M37 2014]


**Week Seven.** “Studies of Gender and Sex: Gender Theory and History.”

**Tuesday, 17 October.**

**Theory:** Joan Wallach Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *American Historical Review* 91, no. 5 (December 1986), pp. 1053-75. (JSTOR) AND


Thomas Laquer, *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*, chs. 2-5. (purchase) [HQ1075 .L37 1990]

**Further Historiography (Optional):** Margaret King, *Women of the Renaissance*. [CUNY e-resource]
Jennifer Heuer, *The Family and the Nation: Gender and Citizenship in Revolutionary France*. [ON ORDER: DC158.8 H482 2005]

Michael Rocke, *Forbidden Friendships: Homosexuality and Male Culture in Renaissance Florence*, esp. ch. 5. [HQ76.3 I8F57 1996]

**Week Eight.** “Studies of the Nation: Historical Sociology and History.”
Tuesday, 24 October.


Tuesday, 31 October.


Week Ten. “Studies of Transnational Groups: Post-National Political Theory and History.”

Tuesday, 7 November.


E. Nathalie Rothman, *Brokering Empire*. [CUNY e-resource]

**Week Eleven. "Studies of (Transnational) Information: Information Theory and History."**

**Tuesday, 14 November.**

**Theory:** David Weinberger, *Too Big to Know*, chs. 1-2. [CUNY e-resource]

**Historiography:** Ann Blair, *Too Much to Know: Managing Scholarly Information before the Modern Age*, chs. 1, 3 and 4. (CUNY e-resource; Z1035.8 L38 B58 2010) OR


Further Historiography (Optional): Arndt Brendecke, *The Empirical Empire*. [ON ORDER]
Jacob Soll, *Information Master: Colbert’s Secret State Intelligence System*. [CUNY e-resource]
*Osiris*, volume 32: *Data Histories*, edited by Elena Aronova, Christine von Oertzen, and David Sepkoski. [ON ORDER]

**Week Twelve. "Studies of (Transnational) Rights: Human Rights Theory and History."**

**Tuesday, 28 November.**

**Theory:** Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, chs. 8-9. [JC 481 .A62] (Blackboard)

Arjun Appadurai, *Fear of Small Numbers*. [GC e-resource]

**Historiography:** Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History*. [CUNY e-resource: ebrary]

**Week Thirteen.** “Studies of the Globe: Environmentalism and History.”

**Tuesday, 5 December.**

**Background Theory:** Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring.* [QH 545 .P4 C38 1962]

**Theory:** Paul J.Crutzen, “Human Impact on Climate Has Made This the ‘Anthropocene Age,’” *New Perspectives Quarterly,* vol.22, no. 2, (March 2005), pp.14-16. [CUNY e~resource]

**Further Theory:** Bill McKibben, *Deep Economy.* [HD75 .M353 2008: ON ORDER]


Fredrik Jonsson, *Enlightenment’s Frontier,* chs. 2-4. [CUNY e~resource: ProQuest] OR


**Further Historiography (Optional):** Alfred Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange.* [E98 .D6 C7 2003]

**Week Fourteen.** “The Affects in History: Psychology and History.”

**Tuesday, 12 December.**

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents.* (purchase) [BF173 .F682 2005]

**Background Historiography (Optional):** Lucien Febvre,” La sensibilité et l’histoire. Comment reconstituer la vie affective d’autrefois?,” in: *Annales d’histoire sociale* 3 (1941), p. 5-20, (JSTOR) and translated and printed in Febvre, *A New Kind of History,* ed. by Peter Burke. [DC36.9 .F32]


***FINAL PAPERS DUE IN MY BOX ON THE DATE OF THE EXAM, AS SCHEDULED BY THE UNIVERSITY. NO LATE FINAL PAPERS CAN BE ACCEPTED.***

ALTERNATIVE TOPIC FOR PAPERS

**Week Independent Study. “Studies of Political Space: Geography and History.”**

**Theory:** George Lefebvre, *State, Space, and World,* chs. 3 and 11. [ON ORDER: H61.15 .L43 2009]

Charles Tilly, *The Formation of National States in Western Europe,* Intro. [JN94.A2 F67]
Saskia Sassen, * Territory, Authority, Rights.* [CUNY e-resource: ebrary]

**Historiography:** Tamar Herzog, *Frontiers of Possession.* [DP84 .H47 2015]