History 205b
Introduction to Doctoral Studies
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Office Hours: W 12-2 (Mandel 108)

This seminar examines some influential recent works and a variety of methods and fields of historical research. The goal is to explore the newest approaches as well as the theory that have profoundly reshaped even the most traditional spheres of historical scholarship.

Assigned Readings: Articles and chapters are on Latte, and books at the Brandeis Bookstore:

Course Requirements:

1) Class Participation and Response Papers. It is essential that you actively contribute to the discussion of the praxis and theory readings. Single-spaced, three-page papers are to be uploaded to the assignment link on Latte. Write an essay on one of the two topics; red as much of the other topic assignments as you can. Late papers, without medical excuse or the instructor’s permission, are not acceptable.

2) Seminar Presentations: Students will present brief (maximum: 10 minutes) introductions to seminar topics; most sessions have two topics and therefore two presenters. The introductions provide the basis for class discussion; they should summarize the main theses and their significance, indicate problems and weaknesses (theoretical, methodological, empirical), and assess the significance of the authors’ contribution.

3) Seminar Paper: Submit a 15-20-page paper on a field or methodology relevant to your first-year research paper; it maybe a topic covered in the course, or something entirely different (e.g., “Counterfactual History” and “Biography”). It should emphasize recent scholarship and specific examples of successful work. Upload to Latte by Dec. 5 and prepare a 10-minute presentation on Dec. 7 (with powerpoint if you prefer).
Session 1 (31 August)
Introduction: Research and Writing

Session 2 (7 September)
Archives

Session 3 (14 September)
A. History’s “Turns”

B. Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Session 4 (21 September)
A. Global History

B. Begriffsgeschichte

Session 5 (28 September)
A. Globalization
Osterhammel, J. *Transformation of the World.*
B. Microhistory

Session 6 (5 October)
A. Scale of History
Guildi, J. and D. Armitage. History Manifesto

B. Visual and Oral History
Burke, P. Eyewitnessing, 9-49, 81-139, 178-90.

No class: 12 October (University Holiday)

Session 7 (19 October)
A. Global Economic History
Pomeranz, K. The Great Divergence

B. Economic and Business History

Session 8 (26 October)
A. Cultural and Intellectual History

B. Decentering Theory
Chakrabarty, D. Provincializing Europe.
Session 9 (2 November)

A. Social History

Sharpe, J. “History from Below,” in Burke, New Perspectives, 25-47.
Fass, P. “Cultural History/Social History: Some Reflections on a Continuing Dialogue,”
Rowe, S. “Writing Modern Selves: Literacy and the French Working Class in the Early
Eley, G. et al., “Scholarly Controversy: Farewell to the Working Class?” Special issue of
International Labor and Working-Class History, 57 (Spring 2000): 1-87.
Van Leeuwen, M. et al. “Social Mobility in France 1720-1986: Effects of Wars, Revolution and

B. Demography and Family History

Cook, H. “Sexuality and Contraception in Modern England: Doing the History of
Methods, 35 (Spring 2000): 83-104.
Ryan, P. “How New is the ‘New’ Social Study of Childhood? The Myth of a Paradigm Shift,”
Journal of Interdisciplinary History 38 (Spring 2008): 553-76.
Milanich, N. “Whither Family History? A Road Map from Latin America,” American Historical
Aitken, J. “‘The Horrors of Matrimony among the Masses’: Feminist Representations of Wife
Ferguson, E. “Domestic Violence by Another Name,” Journal of Women’s History 19 (2007):
12-34.

Session 10 (9 November)

A. Political and Legal History

Monkkonen, E. “Homicide: Explaining America’s Exceptionalism,” American Historical Review
Adler, J. “‘It Is His First Offense, We Might as Well Let Him Go’: Homicide and Criminal

B. Diplomatic and Military History

Hogan, M. “The ‘Next Big Thing’: The Future of Diplomatic History in a Global Age,”
Session 11 (16 November)
A. History of Emotions
Matt, Susan and Peter Stearns, eds. Doing Emotions History.
B. Science and Environment
Grove, R. “Environmental History,” in Burke, New Perspectives, 261-82.

No class: 23 November (University Holiday)

Session 12 (30 November)
A. Gender and Sexuality
B. Religious History

Session 13 (7 December)
Paper Presentations
University Statement on Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently except when assignments specially authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person—be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner—without proper acknowledgment of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or ideas found in published volumes, on the internet, or created by another student.

Violations of University policies on academic integrity, described in “Section Three” of Rights and Responsibilities, may result in failure in the course or on the assignment, or in suspension or dismissal from the University. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in this course, it is your responsibility to ask for clarification.

If you are working in a group that I have authorized, I will expect your answers to resemble those of your partners; otherwise I expect you to do your work separately from your friends, classmates, family members, and so on. You are not permitted to have anyone other than your professors help you on written assignments outside of class. If you have questions on the type of help you may receive, please ask me before you seek help from someone.

University Statement on Documented Disability

If you are a student with a documented disability at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.