

University of Calgary
History 496
Historical Methods and Philosophies of History
Fall Session 2016

Dr. Paul Chastko

pchastko@ucalgary.ca

SS 648

Phone: (403)220-6416

Office Hours: MWF 11-11:50 or by appointment

History 496 is a third-year historiography and philosophy of history seminar for Honours students that explores the way philosophers and historians have conceptualized both the study of history and the past itself. Topics are selective rather than chronological and asks students to consider questions like, "What is history?" Is history an art or a science? How do we know what happened in the past? Why should people study history? What is objectivity and can historians achieve it? How should historians explain the past?

Seminar discussions and assignments encourage students to think critically about the practice of history and builds on the themes and understandings introduced in HTST 300. This class has a considerable reading component and grading will be largely based on a) the student's ability to read, synthesize, and interpret information, b) the student's ability to communicate – both orally and in writing – their knowledge and understanding. As a seminar, it is crucial that students arrive to the weekly discussions having completed the assigned readings and be prepared to contribute to the discussion.

Course objectives:

- Engage students in a seminar setting to develop their skills at presenting and communicating their understandings orally and in writing
- Continue student's understanding of the evolution of the craft of history and the various methodological approaches by historians to represent the past

Grades:

20% - Weekly class participation

20% - Oral Presentation and written summary

60% - Two "thought pieces" (must be different topic from your presentation; one thought piece on a theme from Weeks 2-6 Due by October 28, the other from a subject from Weeks 7-13 Due by December 9) 5-10 pages each.

Assigned Textbooks:

Hoffer, Peter Charles. *The Historians' Paradox: The Study of History in Our Time*. New York: New York University Press, 2010.

Tosh, John, *Historians on History*, 2nd edition. New York: Routledge, 2008.

Recommended Textbook:

Tosh, John. *The Pursuit of History* Sixth Edition. New York: Routledge, 2015.

Note:

- Audio or video recording of seminar discussions is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy
- Late assignments will be penalized half a grade point (0.5 on a 4.0 scale) per day unless an extension is granted before the assignment due date.
- Extensions for term papers will normally not exceed one week and require that the student seek the instructor's permission before an extension will be granted.
- Grades will be calculated according to the University of Calgary's Undergraduate Grading System.

Week 1 (September 16): Organization and Introduction

Week 2 (September 23): Why should we study history?

Readings: Tosh, *Historians*, Part One, selections from V.H. Galbraith, G.R. Elton, Wedgewood & Richard Cobb.

Week 3 (September 30): History as Progress

Readings: Tosh, *Historians*, Part Two, selections from J.H. Plumb, E.H. Carr, Butterfield, Boorsin, A. Boahen, Christopher Hill, E.J. Hobsbawm, Eugene Genovese.

Week 4 (October 7): Can historians really be objective?

Readings: Hoffer, *The Historian's Paradox*, Chapters Introduction, Chapters 1-5.

Week 5 (October 14): History "from the ground up"

Readings: Tosh, *Historians*, Part Three, selections from Samuel, Harding, Ludtke

Week 6 (October 21): The benefits of a historical perspective

Readings: Tosh, *Historians*, Part four

Week 7 (October 28): Gender

Readings: Tosh, *Historians*, Part Three, selections from Smith-Rosenberg, Scott, Bok; Frank Costigliola, "Unceasing Pressure for Penetration: Gender Pathology, and Emotion in George Kennan's Formation of the Cold War" *Journal of American History* (1997): 1309-1339.

Week 8 (November 4): Postcolonialism

Readings: Tosh, *Historians* Part Three, Selections from Guha, Chakrabarty, Hall

Week 9 (November 11) READING DAY: NO CLASS

Week 10 (November 18): History as Social Science

Readings: Tosh, *Historians* Part Five, Selections from Hofstadter, Abrams, Ladurie, Fogel, Braudel, Stone, Zedlin.

Week 11 (November 25) The Politics of History

Readings: Hoffer, *The Historians' Paradox*, Chapters 6-7.

Week 12 (December 2): The Cultural Turn and Postmodernism

Readings: Tosh *Historians*, Part Six: Patrick Joyce, Joan Scott, Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt & Margaret Jacob; Hoffer, *The Historians' Paradox*, Chapter 8

Week 13 (December 9) Memory and Culture

Readings: Tosh, *Historians*, Part Six: Selections from Pierra Nora, Katherine Hodgkin & Susannah Radstone. Hoffer, *The Historians' Paradox*, Chapter 9; Betram Gordon, "The 'Vichy Syndrome' Problem in History" *French Historical Studies* 18 (1995).

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.

For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre, Social Sciences 102, 403-220-3580, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Departmental Twitter Handle @ucalgaryhist - For departmental updates and notifications

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print coursepack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (SS 656). Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

| Percentage | Letter Grade | Grade Point Value | Description |
|------------|--------------|-------------------|---|
| 90-100 | A+ | 4.00 | Outstanding |
| 85-89 | A | 4.00 | Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter. |
| 80-84 | A- | 3.70 | |
| 77-79 | B+ | 3.30 | |
| 73-76 | B | 3.00 | Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete. |
| 70-72 | B- | 2.70 | |
| 67-69 | C+ | 2.30 | |
| 63-66 | C | 2.00 | Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter. |
| 60-62 | C- | 1.70 | Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. |
| 56-59 | D+ | 1.30 | Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject. |
| 50-55 | D | 1.00 | |
| 0-49 | F | 0 | Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements. |

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook*, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.

- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI Surveys.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected grounds other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Other Useful Information:

Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.

Please also familiarize yourself about the following topics by consulting the information at these links:

Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

Student Union Information: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

Graduate Student Association: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>

Student Ombudsman Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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