

Historiography HIST 102

Fall 2025 Section 01 In Person 4 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/11/2025

The subject of this history seminar is "history" itself. With readings ranging from the works of Ancient Greek poets to those of post-modern historians, we will explore the following questions: How have thinkers made sense of the past? What events have they considered important and what kinds of explanations have seemed reasonable? How have views of history changed and how do our own approaches to history reflect our times? We will also consider the broader philosophical questions: What is "history"? Is the past worth studying? What can we learn from the past? Through class discussion, exams and a research paper, students will investigate these issues in depth while sharpening their skills in historical research, analysis of primary sources, and written and oral communication.

This class is a seminar. There will be no lectures, so you should come to every class having done the reading and prepared to participate. You should complete all of the assigned reading for the week before the first class meeting for which it is due. (For more details, see "Class Participation," below.) COURSE PREREQUISITE: YOU MUST HAVE ALREADY PASSED HIST100W TO TAKE THIS CLASS. This course is the third in the series of core courses for history majors. In Hist 102, you will be expected to use the skills in interpreting historical arguments and writing analytical essays in history developed in Hist 99 and 100W

Contact Information

Instructor:	Prof. Allison Katsev
Office Location:	DMH 140
Telephone:	408-924-5508
Email:	allison.katsev@sjsu.edu Please, feel free to e-mail me or come to office hours with any questions you have, big or small!
Office Hours:	Thursday, 1:30pm-2:30pm Also via email and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MoWe 12:00pm-1:15pm
Classroom:	DMH 354
Units:	4 units

Course Description and Requisites

Critical study of the writings of great historians.

Prerequisite: HIST 099 and HIST 100W.

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

You are expected to arrive to class on time. Do not use cellphones, texting, or email in class.

Course Format

This class will be taught in person. During class, I will provide context for the assigned material and students will participate in active discussion and analysis of the material.

Class Communications

Course materials (the syllabus, guidelines for assignments) may be found on the course website on Canvas. I will communicate with students by email, through Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking email for important messages about the class.

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

PLO 1 Describe and explain how peoples and societies evolved across time and space demonstrating the importance of context (social, political, economic, cultural, environmental, ideological, and technological).

PLO 2 Illustrate the complexity of historical causality and describe past events from multiple perspectives.

PLO 3 Analyze the credibility of historical sources and arguments, revising interpretations as new evidence warrants.

PLO 4 Conceive and carry out historical research, constructing persuasive evidence-based arguments using primary and secondary sources according to recognized standards of the historical discipline.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

By the end of this course, students will be able to use what they have learned about historiography and methods of historical analysis to:

- Develop a synthetic perspective on the evolution of western historical thought, from antiquity to the present;
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of key trends in the modern historical profession;
- Identify and analyze the worldviews embedded in historical narratives;
- Develop proficiency in analyzing primary sources from an intellectual history perspective;
- Discuss with nuance complex historical topics;
- Utilize research techniques taught in Hist100W;
- Produce an extended research paper demonstrating the above skills.

Course Materials

Required Texts/Readings

Versions of History

Author: Donald R. Kelley, ed.

ISBN: 9780300047769

Availability: Spartan Bookstore or their website

The Varieties of History

Author: Fritz Stern, ed.

ISBN: 9780394719627

Availability: Spartan Bookstore or their website

Historians on History

Author: John Tosh, ed.

Edition: Third Edition

ISBN: 9781138057203

Availability: Spartan Bookstore or their website

Online Sources

Sources must be brought to class, whether printed out or on a device.

Availability: Links will be provided in the daily schedule on the syllabus on Canvas

Course Requirements and Assignments

1) MIDTERM EXAM

IN CLASS ON OCTOBER 13 (20% of grade): The exam will require students to write essays on quotes and themes from the first half of the course. A description of the exam is posted on Canvas. A more detailed study guide, including the essay questions, will be posted about 10 days before the exam.

Bring 1 large green book. You can bring a piece of 8 x 11 paper with handwritten notes on both sides. Because you will be given the exam essay questions ahead of time to prepare, you can include on your notebook paper notes and an outline, but not fully written out essays. Other than that, you may not use notes or books during the exam.

2) ESSAY

DUE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, AT 11:59 PM ON CANVAS: ESSAY (12-15 PAGES), worth of 10% of course grade.

DUE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, AT 11:59 PM ON CANVAS: REVISED ESSAY (12-15 PAGES), worth 25% of course grade.

In this essay, you will critically analyze 1) the key writings of one historian, or 2) many works that deal with a single historical event using different approaches. The goal of this essay is NOT to provide details about a historian's life or historical event, but to consider closely how history is written (the methods, assumptions and results). Specific guidelines for the essay are posted on Canvas.

3) FINAL EXAM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 10:45AM-12:45PM, FINAL EXAM, worth 20% of course grade. The exam will require students to write essays on quotes from the second half of the course and themes spanning the whole course. A description of the exam is posted on Canvas. A more detailed study guide, including the essay questions, will be posted about 10 days before the exam.

Bring 1 large green book. You can bring a piece of 8 x 11 paper with handwritten notes on both sides. Because you will be given the exam essay questions ahead of time to prepare, you can include on your notebook paper notes and an outline, but not fully written out essays. Other than that, you may not use notes or books during the exam.

4) CLASS PARTICIPATION

PARTICIPATE IN CLASS MEETINGS, worth 25% of course grade. Students are expected come to class having done the assigned reading, and prepared to ask questions and participate actively in class discussions of the reading.

Participation will also include the at-home reflection due on August 25 and 11:59 pm (see guidelines under assignments), and a peer review of two student essays due Saturday, November 8, 11:59 pm on Canvas (see paper guidelines for details).

Writing Resources

Students will receive detailed feedback on their writing, and are encouraged to contact me to discuss their assignments at any point, from brainstorming ideas to writing final drafts. In addition, the Writing Center (<https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>) is an excellent resource for helping students at any stage in their writing. The Center provides group and one-on-one tutoring sessions, workshops on a wide array of writing topics, and online resources like videos and handouts for self-study.

✓ Grading Information

For this class, students will complete in-class midterm and final examinations, and an extensive research paper (including a rough draft). In addition, students will prepare for class discussions through close and careful reading of multiple primary sources. Details for all assignments will be distributed well in advance and reviewed in class.

Grades on assignments will be regularly updated on Canvas. You can always email with questions about your current grade.

Weighting of Assignments

Assignment Activity	Percentage of Grade
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Essay (draft, final version)	35%
Participation (including peer review of other students' essays)	25%

Policy on Late Work: Late papers will be marked down 1/3 grade for each day late. For example, a B will be reduced to a B- if turned in one day late. I do not grant extensions except in cases of unforeseeable circumstances. If such circumstances arise, you should contact me immediately. For the final draft of the essay, in order to get grades in at the end of the semester, I will not accept any papers after the start of the final exam except in truly extraordinary, unforeseeable circumstances. If such circumstances arise, you must contact me immediately.

Policy on Use of AI Programs: This is a course that teaches critical thinking and developing arguments based on evidence. Therefore the use of AI programs (such as ChatGPT) is not allowed. Using an AI program to do the thinking for you is plagiarism. Using an AI program as a source that you cite is also unacceptable as AI programs are neither reliable nor do they accurately cite the sources of their information.

Because one of the ways of honing critical thinking is developing one's skills at expressing arguments in writing, the use of AI writing programs such as Grammarly Pro is not allowed. Programs that check for basic issues in grammar and spelling (such as the free Grammarly program) are permitted.

"Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus."

Because this is a 4-unit course, students can expect to spend a minimum of twelve hours per week preparing for and attending classes and completing course assignments. Careful time management will be required to keep up with readings and assignments in an intensive course such as this one.

Breakdown

Grade	Range	Notes
A+	97% to 100%	
A	93% to 96.99%	
A-	90% to 92.99%	
B+	87% to 89.99%	
B	83% to 86.99%	
B-	80% to 82.99%	
C+	77% to 79.99%	
C	73% to 76.99%	
C-	70% to 72.99%	
D+	67% to 69.99%	
D	63% to 66.99%	
D-	60% to 62.99%	
F	Below 60%	

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
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When	Topic	Notes
Aug. 20	Introduction: Thinking historiographically	No reading due; get the books and get started on reading.
Aug. 25	At-home Assignment (NO CLASS MEETING)	<p>1) Choose any work of fiction or non-fiction that you are already familiar with(it can be a work of history, a novel, a movie, a painting, a TikTok video, etc.); 2)Reflect on what that work suggests about how the author/director/artist would answer one or more of our GUIDING QUESTIONS (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files?preview=82899784); 3) Write about a paragraph or so with your reflections.</p> <p>NOTE: You'll submit your reflections on Canvas but they won't be graded. My goal is for you to have a chance to start thinking about the kinds of questions we'll be asking in this class. You should absolutely feel free to have fun with this assignment. I do not expect you to spend more than about an hour on this assignment total.</p> <p>DUE ON CANVAS: AUG. 25, 11:59 PM.</p> <p>LINK TO GUIDING QUESTIONS (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files?preview=82899784).</p>
Aug. 27 - Sept. 3	The Ancients on History (Greek/Rome)	<p>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27:</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <p>1) <i>Versions of History</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skim all of chapters 2 and 3 • Read closely excerpts #2 (Hesiod), 3 (Herodotus), 4 (Thucydides), 7 (Diodorus of Sicily), 9 (Aristotle), 11 (Lucian), 12 (Livy), 15 (Cicero), 20 (Tacitus) <p>You can use these questions to guide your reading: Guiding Questions for Reading (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files?preview=82899784).</p> <p>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: NO CLASS, LABOR DAY</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3: Ancients on History, Continued</p>
Sept. 8 - Sept. 10	Godly History: Early Christian/Medieval Views of History	<p>READINGS:</p> <p>1) <i>Versions of History</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skim all of chapters 4 and 5 • Read closely excerpts #27 (Paul), 31 (Eusebius), 32 (Josephus), 35 (Isidore of Seville), 36 (Augustine), 46 (Bede), 56 (Chretien de Troyes), 59 (Otto of Freising)

When	Topic	Notes
Sept. 15 - Sept. 17	New Views of Man: Renaissance/Reformation	READINGS: 1) <i>Versions of History</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skim all of chapters 6 and 7 • Read closely excerpts #63 (Petrarch), 70 (Agrippa), 73 (Machiavelli), 77 (Luther), 81 (Foxy), 83 (Bebel), 84 (Leland), 86 (Hotman)
Sept. 22 - Sept. 24	Scientific and Enlightened History	READINGS: 1) <i>Versions of History</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skim all of chapters 8 and 9 • Read closely excerpts 103 (Voltaire), 106 (Hume), 107 (Gibbon), 109 (Vico), 110 (Herder), 111 (d'Alembert), 112 (Condorcet)
Sept. 29 - Oct. 1	19th c. Science of History	READINGS: 1) <i>Varieties of History</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1: chapters 3 (Ranke), 7 (Michelet), 8 (Buckle, Droysen), 10 (prospectuses)
Oct. 6 - Oct. 8	Marx and Historians	READINGS: 1) <i>Varieties of History</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1: chapter 9 (Marx and Engels, Jaurès) 2) <i>Online Sources</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.P. Thompson, <i>The Making of the English Working Class</i> (excerpts) (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899782). • Christopher Hill, "Marxism and History" (1948) (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899791).
Monday Oct. 13	Midterm Exam--Review and Exam	In-Class Midterm Exam A description of the exam is posted on Canvas. A more detailed study guide will be posted about 10 days before the exam.
WEDS, Oct. 15 - MON Oct. 20	American Visions of History	READINGS: 1) <i>Varieties of History</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1: chapter 13 (Turner) • Part 2: all of chapter 3 (Robinson and Beard), and chapter 7 (Beard) 2) <i>Online Source</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899788).

When	Topic	Notes
Oct. 22 - Oct. 27	New Subjects: Race, Gender, People's Histories	<p>READINGS:</p> <p>1) <i>Historians on History</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 10 (Samuel), 11 (Harding), 14 (Scott), 16 (Guha), 18 (Hall) <p>2) <i>Online sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goodman, "Enlightenment Salons: The Convergence of Female and Philosophic Ambitions" (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899797). • Steinbrugge, "The Moral Sex" (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899795).
TUESDAY, OCT. 28, 11:59PM	DRAFT OF ESSAY DUE ON CANVAS (12-15 PAGES)	
Oct. 29 - Nov. 3	Historians as Social Scientist? Individuals and Trends in History	<p>READINGS:</p> <p>1) <i>Historians on History</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part V, from p. 178-220 <p>2) <i>Online Sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fernard Braudel, <i>The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Phillip II</i> (excerpts) (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899789). • Le Roy Ladurie, <i>The Peasants of Languedoc</i> (excerpts) (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899781). • Carlo Ginzburg, <i>The Cheese and the Worms</i> (excerpts) (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899790).

When	Topic	Notes
Nov. 5 - Nov. 10	Cultural Approaches to History	<p>READINGS:</p> <p>1) <i>Online Sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture" (excerpts) (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899780). • Darnton, "The Great Cat Massacre" (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899794). • Hunt, "Politics, Culture and Class in the French Revolution" (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899796). • Shapin and Schaffer, "Leviathan and the Air Pump" (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899798). <p>NOTE: Our class meeting on Monday, Nov. 10 will be conducted via Zoom. I'll send out a Zoom link ahead of time.</p>
SATURDAY, NOV. 8, 11:59 PM	2 PEER REVIEWS DUE ON CANVAS	As soon as drafts are submitted, each student will be assigned via Canvas 2 paper to peer review.
Nov. 12 - Nov. 17	Post-modernism	<p>READINGS:</p> <p>1) <i>Historians on History</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 30 (Joyce), 31 (Scott), 32 (Appleby, et. al.) <p>2) <i>Online Sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michel Foucault, "Panopticism" (1975) (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899783).

When	Topic	Notes
WEDS Nov. 19- MON. Dec. 1	Orientalism and Post-Colonialism	<p>WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19:</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <p>1) <i>Online Sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edward Said, <i>Orientalism</i> (excerpts) (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899802). • Anderson, "Imagined Community in Anticolonial Nationalism" (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899799). • Chatterjee, "The Nation and the Home" (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899779). • Arnold, "Medicine and the Colonization of the Body in India" (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899800). • Dipesh Chakrabarty, <i>Provincializing Europe</i> (excerpts) (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899792). <p>MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24:</p> <p>Extra Office hours/Time for consultation with Professor</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26:</p> <p>NO CLASS—Thanksgiving Holiday</p> <p>MONDAY, DEC. 1:</p> <p>Orientalism and Post-colonialism, continued.</p>

When	Topic	Notes
Dec. 3 - Dec. 8	Usefulness of History; Conclusions	<p>WEDNESDAY, Dec. 3: Usefulness of History</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <p>1) <i>Varieties of History</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 371-top of 381 (Namier, "History") <p>2) <i>Historians on History</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 37 (Laslett); 38 (Howard); 39 (Zinn) <p>3) <i>Online Sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc Bloch, <i>The Historian's Craft</i> (1954) (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899793). • Alan Bullock, "Has History ceased to be relevant?" (1994) (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1615220/files/folder/ONLINE%20SOURCES?preview=82899778). <p>MONDAY, Dec. 8: Concluding Thoughts; Exam Review</p> <p>No new reading</p>
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 11:59PM	REVISED ESSAY DUE ON CANVAS	
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 10:45AM- 12:45PM	FINAL EXAM	A description of the exam is posted on Canvas. A more detailed study guide will be posted about 10 days before the exam.