

Historiography & Historical Methodology

SEMINARS: Wednesday, 8:30 - 11:20 am

INSTRUCTOR

B. Baader

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OFFICE HOURS: Tu 9-10 am, Th 4-5 pm, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This is a joint graduate/undergraduate course for advanced undergraduate history majors and for graduate students. It concerns some of the philosophical and methodological issues that bear on the research and writing of history by professional historians. The course will introduce students to some of the past and current debates in the historical profession about what history is, and what it can and should do. Students will be given the opportunity to examine some of the many methods and approaches to historical research and writing, along with contemporary historiographical challenges to traditional methodologies from such critical perspectives as postmodernism, postcolonial critiques, feminist studies, and non-Western world views. Thus, while this class focuses on issues of historical methodology and introduces students to a great variety of historical fields and historical schools, it also surveys the most important trends in the philosophy of history and in the history of thought in the humanities at large. This class is designed to provide students with a good understanding of the large range of historiographical trends and their history, with a significant literacy in theoretical thinking, and with an appreciation for the political stakes involved in the creation of historical accounts.

PREREQUISITE (Undergraduate students only): Written consent of department head.

COURSE PLATFORM, EQUIPMENT, AND MODE

Due to the current pandemic, this course will be delivered remotely via the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform. Classes will be held synchronously - in real time – Wednesday mornings, 8:30-11:20 am. Thus, students will need access to the internet via a computer, tablet, or smart phone, and all students will have to observe the Department Rules of Online Etiquette.

Also, in this seminar, class discussion and students' participation in these discussion are essential. Therefore, students will need a microphone and a camera during the seminar, and they are expected to have their camera turned on. We will want to see each other as we together engage and sometimes wrestle with the material that constitutes the intellectual journey of this class. Every week during class time, the instructor will give an introduction to the topic of the week, but most of the seminar will consist of class discussions. Participation in these oral online discussions makes 20% of your final grade.

The Zoom link, meeting ID, and password will be posted at the UM Learn course website and I will send it to all registered students a few days before classes begin.

CLASS COMMUNICATION

In the weeks in which classes are in session, I will be holding office hours on Zoom, on Tuesday, 9-10 am, and Thursday, 4-5 pm, and I will be available at other times by appointment. The Zoom link, meeting ID, and password for the term will be posted on the UM Learn course website. Also, all course communication, posting of readings and other class materials, and submission of your assignments as well as feedback will be conducted through UM Learn and through email sent to your myumanitoba address. You are expected to check your email daily.

FORMAT OF THE SEMINAR AND READINGS

This class is a discussion-based, reading-intensive weekly seminar. In the first week, we will outline the aims of the course and determine the Think Piece schedule. In week two and three, we will make ourselves familiar with the history of historical consciousness and historiography in Europe. In week four, we will start to explore some approaches to historical writing, issues in historical methodology, and fields of contemporary historiography.

The instructor will oversee the course, but the seminars will be largely team taught by a number of faculty, each leading an individual session of the course. Students will play an active role in the class by engaging in discussions about the topic and the readings of the seminar.

Since this course is directed at senior undergraduates and graduate students, it is a reading-intensive class. You are expected to read between 150-200 pages each week for this course and you will come to class a) having read your material, and b) equipped with questions, queries, expressions of interest, or statements of disagreement to offer up for discussion.

The required readings for this seminar will consist of the assigned chapters from the books listed below, journal articles that are available through the UofM library website, and texts posted on the UM Learn website for this class.

BOOKS, AVAILABLE AT THE UM BOOKSTORE

- Lloyd Kramer, Sarah Maza, ed. *A Companion to Western Historical Thought*. (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing) 2006.

- Yosef H. Yerushalmi. *Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory*. (Seattle: University of Washington Press), 1982.

Both books are also available as ebooks through the Bison library system. However, there may be limits on how many readers can access each book at the same time.

There will likely be a third book for the winter semester.

WEEKLY THINK PIECES

Students will be asked to prepare Think Pieces of 500-800 words which they will present and defend in class to initiate and sustain the discussion. These short papers should be posted on UMLearn by the **Tuesday** preceding the class on Wednesday. Graduate students submit a Think Piece every week and undergraduates three Think Pieces in each semester. All students are required to read the weekly Think Pieces that have been submitted in order to engage with them

in class. In addition, students will have the opportunity to contribute to a discussion forum that will be open for 24 hours after each class.

Finally, students are required to join an on-line History discussion group on H-Net. There are now a large number of such networks established, one for nearly every sub-field of the discipline. Some of you will be interested in the H-Canada discussion group, but there are many others to select from. Visit <https://networks.h-net.org/networks> and select one or more groups that fit your interests. You will report and reflect on the posts of your H-Net discussion group/s in the final historiographical essay in the winter term.

ATTENDANCE , PARTICIPATION, MISSED CLASSES

Regular, active, audible, constructive participation forms a significant portion of the final grade (20%). Attendance alone will count for only a small fraction of the final grade for this component of the course. So expect to come to class prepared to either pose or respond to questions, to discuss ideas, or to challenge the opinions raised by the discussion leaders. If you are unable to attend class, please let me know in advance as soon as possible. If your absence is unavoidable, please provide me with a written summary (500-800 word) of the week's required readings.

EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS

For **Undergraduate** Students (those enrolled in HIST 4400):

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| 1. | In-class seminar participation | 20% |
| 2. | Think Pieces (3 each term, 6 in total) | 15% |
| 3. | Discussion forum | 5 % |
| 4. | Essay #1 (1400-2100 words, or 4-6 pages) | 10% Due October 16, 2020 |
| 5. | Essay #2 (2800-3500 words, or 8-10 pages) | 20% Due December 11, 2020 |
| 6. | Essay #3 (4900-5600 words, or 14-16 pages) | 30% Due April 9, 2021 |
| | | Essay topic due February 3 |

For **Graduate** Students (those enrolled in HIST 7700):

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| 1. | In-class seminar participation | 20% |
| 2. | Weekly Think Pieces | 15% |
| 3. | Discussion forum | 5 % |
| 4. | Essay #1 (1750-2450 words, or 5-7 pages) | 10% Due October 16, 2020 |
| 5. | Essay #2 (3500-4200 words, or 10-12 pages) | 20% Due December 11, 2020 |
| 6. | Essay #3 (6000-7000 words, or 17-20 pages) | 30% Due April 9, 2021 |
| | | Essay topic due February 3 |

Evaluative feedback will be provided prior to the voluntary withdrawal (**VW**) **date of January 29, 2021**.

Written work will be evaluated for both content and style, but mainly for the quality of the argument. Students at this stage of their academic careers should realize that style to a large extent determines the content, and should therefore pay careful attention to the quality and tone of their writing. Your texts should be clear and logical, with well-supported arguments. Plan on revising drafts of your papers before submitting them.

All written assignments should be typed and should conform to a formal academic style, free of contractions, colloquialism, or slang. Sentences should be clear and to the point. Please proofread your work carefully before submitting it. Papers should be free of technical errors of citation. For the formal essays, citations should follow the Chicago Style found in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Terms Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. (Chicago, 1996) or the *Chicago Manual of Style* (14th edition or later). Further details regarding written assignments will be handed out in class.

For your participation, evaluation will take into account the quality of your comments, but it will also honor the utility of contributions for the class discussion. Thus, raising questions can be as valuable as sharing information and insights. However, perfect attendance alone will constitute only a small portion the participation grade. Students will be expected to discuss, debate, challenge and defend the ideas and opinions raised both in the readings and by their fellow classmates during the discussions. It is impossible for your colleagues to engage with—and for me to evaluate—ideas that appear only in your mind. You must share them with the group.

The numerical grade weighting for evaluating performance in this course is as follows.

A+	96 – 100%	B	71 – 80 %	D	50 – 55 %
A	86 – 95 %	C+	66 – 70 %	F	0 – 49 %
B+	81 – 85 %	C	56 – 65 %		

IN CASE OF ILLNESS

Students who are unable to meet a course requirement due to medical circumstances are currently not required to submit medical notes. However, students are required to contact their instructor or academic advisor by email to inform of the missed work and to make arrangements for extensions, deferrals, or make-up assignments. Please follow these guidelines if you are unable to meet an academic requirement for your courses.

- Contact your instructor for term work such as a class, quiz, midterm/test, assignment, lab;
- Contact an advisor in your faculty/college/school of registration for a missed final exam (scheduled in the final examination period);
- Inform your instructor/advisor as soon as possible do not delay. Note for final exams, students must contact within 48 hours of the date of the final exam; and
- Email your instructor/advisor from a U of M email address, and include your full name, student number, course number, and academic work that was missed.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of **two marks** (or percentage points) **per day** of tardiness, **including weekends**, unless a written request (with serious reasons) has been submitted in advance of the due date and written permission has been granted by the instructor. Late or missed Think Pieces will receive a grade of zero. Delays in submitting the topic for the third essay will result in a deduction of one mark per day for the final essay.

GRADE APPEALS

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

UNCOLLECTED TERM WORK

Four months from the end of the final examination period, unclaimed student work from that term will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

The University's regulations re plagiarism, cheating and impersonation found in the section on "Academic Integrity" of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar, and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation (online at http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html) which reads:

The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.

The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

STUDENT RESOURCES

Student supports and resources are available throughout the Fall and Winter terms. Please consult the appropriate webpages for information on virtual appointments or other modes of contact during this period of limited in-person services.

Academic Resources

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>. The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on one day a week. More information about scheduling, etc., TBA.

The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html>.

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

Student Counselling Centre

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counseling. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

Student Support Case Management

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

University Health Service

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

Student Advocacy

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy>

UM History Student Association (UMHiSA)

UMHiSA is a history undergraduate student run organization that seeks to establish a sense of community for students studying all facets of history, and provide support for them in their academic career. Students interested in fun times, spirited debate, new opportunities, a community of like-minded students, or all of the above, check out UMHiSA on our twitter account @UMH_Undergrad, our instagram account @UMHISA_Undergrad, or emailing umhisau@gmail.com.