

AMERICAN HISTORIOGRAPHY (6600 8600). Fall, 2005 Dr. Charles N. Glaab. **HOME PHONE 419- 535-7066; if busy leave message at 419- 535-7022 OFFICE PHONE 419-530-2296; number has voice mail. HOME E-MAIL cglaab@accessledo.com OFFICE E-MAIL charles.glaab@utoledo.edu**

The course is organized as a reading, lecture, and discussion course with some elements of the traditional seminar included. It is designed not to explore interpretative issues in current historical writing, but to examine often neglected aspects of graduate education in history, particularly the philosophy of history and the history of American historical writing and investigation. Each week's class will be organized around a topic; your main task will be to read regularly and continually and to be prepared to discuss each week's topic.

Each week you should submit one 3 x 5 card, or perhaps two if you can't decide among two especially significant readings, providing a full citation of an article, a book chapter, or similar item that you consider the most significant essay that you have read during the week. These cited items are independent of the required assigned reading. To find significant articles you obviously must investigate and read widely each week.

Although I will be judging your performance throughout the course, the department has found recently that graduate students often do not have sufficient preparation in writing comprehensive exams such as the general Ph. D. exams. I will therefore ask you to write essays during the scheduled final exam time on two or three of the major subjects that we have covered in the course.

I also require two short papers of around five to six pages each.. The first should examine an issue in current historical writing i.e. new approaches to history, current historical theory, uses of historical evidence. It should not deal with interpretation of a standard historical topic such as the causes of the American Civil War, the nature of the New Deal, the treatment of native Americans and scores of others that are part of your other graduate course work. For the second paper representing a modified seminar approach I will require everyone to write on one of the most brilliant, provocative, and significant past American historians Richard Hofstadter. I chose him at this time since he explored issues of ideology that seem particularly relevant to the politics of contemporary American society. The papers should be documented and must follow the required departmental standards of the Chicago Manual of Style. Approaches and schedules will be discussed as we proceed.

Your grade will be determined by the two papers, the quality of the article selections, discussion performance, and the final examination but not on the basis of any exact mathematical ratio. In my view letter grades, though many would disagree, are all but meaningless in graduate school, but I will of course formally make the required letter-grade assessment and it is customarily a reasonably generous one.

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

I will indicate the forthcoming topic for each session. We'll begin with discussion of research methods and tools, continue with at least two weeks discussion of historical theory and contemporary issues, then systematically trace through the history of American historical writing from the colonial period, through the romantic historians, the emergence of scientific history, the progressive tradition of early twentieth century, the consensus school, and late twentieth century radical history. I prefer to keep the schedule flexible. In my view the best courses are those that are not highly structured and allow for continual improvisation in accord with the abilities and interests of the class.

### REQUIRED TEXT

Evans, Richard J. In Defense of History (Norton, New York, 1999). Emphasizes European history, but a relatively balanced assessment of the current state of writing including American historiography.

Higham, John, History (Harper Torchbooks, New York, 1965) (New and revised edition, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, 1986).

### FUNDAMENTAL REQUIRED ARTICLES

These are just a few of the articles that are old enough to be considered historical commentaries on the writing of American history. They are reprinted in various sources. I have not supplied citations, since the search for them is half the fun and often instructive.

Carl Becker, "Everyman His Own Historian."

Charles A. Beard, "Written History as an Act of Faith."

J. H. Hexter, "The Historian and His Day."

John Higham, "The Rise of American Intellectual History."

Elbert Hubbard, "A Message to Garcia."

Perry Miller, "The Plight of the Lone Wolf."

Samuel Eliot Morison, "Faith of a Historian."

James Harvey Robinson, "The New History"

Arthur M. Schlesinger, "The City in American History."

Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History."

Irvin Unger, "The 'New Left' and American History: Recent Trends in American Historiography."

Other required articles will be assigned as we proceed through the course.

#### STANDARD OVERALL ACCOUNTS

Appleby, Joyce, and Lynn Hunt, Margaret Webb, Telling the Truth about History (Norton, New York, 1994). Reflects much of the contemporary established orthodoxy about the purposes of history, but provides a convenient summary of past historical writing.

Cunliffe, Marcus and Robin Winks, eds., Pastmasters (Harper & Row, New York, 1969). Superb biographical sketches of major American historians.

Eisenstadt, A. S., The Craft of American History 2 vols. (Harper Torchbooks, New York, 1966).

Hofstadter, Richard, The Progressive Historians (Random House, New York, 1968). A major work by one of America's greatest historians.

Kraus, Michael and Davis D. Joyce, The Writing of American History, Revised Edition (University of Oklahoma, Norman, 1985). A standard text since the 1930's. Serves almost as a catalogue of past American historians.

Novick, Peter, That Noble Dream: The "Objectivity Question" and the American Historical Profession. (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1988). By all odds the best book on American historical writing and a brilliant example of superb scholarship, but students are not as impressed as I am.

Wish, Harvey, The American Historian (Oxford, New York, 1960). An older, encyclopedic but readable and useful account.

