School of Humanities and Languages // UNSW Arts, Design & Architecture

ARTS3270

Reflecting on Histories and Historians: Capstone

Term Two // 2021

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: History

In this capstone course you will join all the other students majoring in History in a weekly seminar designed to perfect and reflect on the skills you have learned in your history degree. You will discuss and critique some of the most influential historical methodologies of our time. You will conduct a research project exploring the public and political role of history. And you will conduct your own major research project: framing a question about the past that can be addressed by reconstructing past events from primary sources, while engaging with recent scholarship in your interpretation of these events.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. evaluate major theories and methodologies within the discipline of history
2. demonstrate a critical understanding of the political implications of historical writing
3. identify multiple practices of history and evaluate them in light of professional standards of scholarship and ethical behaviour
4. conduct an independent research project

Teaching Strategies

As this is a seminar course, the core teaching strategy is to facilitate discussion and group work where students

Assessment

All assessments are compulsory.

You must write the topic of the essay on the first page. Use an easy font to read (e.g. Verdana 10, Arial 10, Times New Roman 12) and double-space your paragraphs.

Assignments must be fully referenced. We use footnotes, not endnotes. The system used in this course is the Chicago style: see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

The footnotes and bibliography are never included in the word count.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Discussion questions	20%	Every week, before Saturday, 11pm	1, 2, 3
Research essay proposal and annotated bibliography	20%	04/07/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 4
Research Essay	60%	01/08/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Discussion questions

Start date: 29/05/2021 11:00 PM

Details:

Students will submit one question per week (i.e. 9 questions) of up to 30 words each. Questions have to be submitted prior to seminars.

Feedback via a rubric.

Additional details:

You have to submit one question related to the readings, which would then be used to frame the class discussion.

Your question or observation has to be clearly formulated.

Email me your question to s.belmessous@unsw.edu.au

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

WRITTEN APPROVAL TO PROCEED (based on feasibility and coherence) or else they must write on the standard set topic. Research Essay topic proposals submitted early will be evaluated in the order received, potentially allowing revision and resubmission.

You must contact me well in advance to present your project and make sure that it satisfies the assignment requirements.

Any essay topic not discussed with me before the deadline will automatically receive no higher than a Fail.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Seminar	Historical scholarship and advocacy Are historians subject to ethical standards beyond what is required for the publication of their work in peer-reviewed journals (e.g. truthful and complete reporting of primary evidence sources, logical argumentation, citation of influential or otherwise important secondary sources)? For example, should they publicly discuss issues only within their domain of scholarly expertise? Must they consider the social impact of their scholarly work in publishing on certain questions and/or using certain sources? Once it is published, do they bear any other responsibilities in describing it in public venues such as the courtroom? The pointy end of such questions has been experienced by imperial historians working on questions of native title. In this class we will consider historians' roles in the land litigation cases of the 1990s and 2000s and debate historians' ethical responsibilities to their subjects, audiences, and professional communities.
	Homework	Course readings in Leganto
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Homework	Course readings in Leganto
	Seminar	The Social Turn • Marxism • History from below • Social history It is often said that “history is written by the winners”. So, how do we approach history from the perspective of those who were disempowered and disenfranchised? How can we understand the lives of the subalterns of the past, even though they typically left no written records of their own?
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Seminar	The Cultural Turn Monday: • Postmodernism and post-structuralism • From Women's history to Gender History • Postcolonial history Thursday: Focus on Gender and ‘Herstory’

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All required and recommended readings for each seminar will be posted to Leganto. If there are any problems accessing the reading, alert me by email immediately and I will either rectify Leganto or post a pdf in Moodle.

Recommended Resources

See above.

Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed, and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered from students using myExperience. It is encouraged students complete their surveys by accessing the personalized web link via the Moodle course site.

Following formal and informal student feedback last year, I've taken steps to ensure the reading load is more manageable, and changed the final seminar subject to one that reflects more clearly on the discipline's future.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
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