Historical Methods, Archives, and Interpretations
HS100.293

Shaffer 100
WF 12:00 Noon – 1:15PM
August 29, 2022 – December 9, 2022

Dr. Sasha Turner
Office Hours WF10:00-11:30AM By Appointment

TA: Vaclav Zheng
Description
This course surveys methods, approaches, and practices of historical writing. It asks students to think about the questions historians ask, the archives they use, and the arguments they make. Students will be introduced to subversive and emancipatory potential of contemporary scholarship that importantly incorporates subaltern, marginalized, or formerly forgotten voices.

Academic Integrity
Undergraduate students enrolled in KSAS and WSE assume a duty to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the University’s mission as an institution of higher learning. Students are obliged to refrain from acts which they know, or under circumstances have reason to know, violate the academic integrity of the University. For full details of this policy and actions taken for violation see https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/policies-guidelines/undergrad-ethics/.

Student Accommodations
All students with disabilities who require accommodations for this course should contact the course instructor or TA at their earliest opportunity to discuss their specific needs. It is preferable that students request their accommodations at the start of the semester and share their eligibility letter with their faculty member. Students submitting their letter later in the semester are still eligible to receive approved accommodations, but there could be a delay in accommodations being implemented. Students with a disability who are requesting accommodations must be registered with Homewood office of Student Disability Services (101 Shaffer Hall; 410-516-4720; studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu) to receive accommodations.

Class Meetings
Unless noted, all classes meet in person. (Shaffer 100)
Classes marked as via zoom will use the link below.
Under some circumstances we may need to switch from scheduled in person to zoom. You will be notified of any such changes. Pay attention to announcements via canvas for changes.

JHU COVID-19 Requirements (As of 8/23) Subject to change
Masking is now optional in all campus, classroom, and work-related spaces; individuals may choose to continue masking, and we will continue to provide free, high-quality masks. Faculty can request that students wear masks while in their classroom and we are confident that students will be respectful and responsive.

COVID-19 vaccination and booster shots are required for all affiliates working or studying in the U.S., with the exception of those affiliated with the School of Medicine. More information. For more information, including testing and what to do if you test positive for COVID-19, see, https://covidinfo.jhu.edu/ or call COVID-19 Call Center at 443-287-8500.
**Zoom Meeting Link**

[https://zoom.us/j/91571158172](https://zoom.us/j/91571158172)

Meeting ID: 915 7115 8172
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,91571158172# US (Washington DC)
+16468769923,,91571158172# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
+1 646 931 3860 US
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 444 9171 US
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 386 347 5053 US
+1 564 217 2000 US
Meeting ID: 915 7115 8172
Find your local number: [https://zoom.us/u/adQhUf3MrG](https://zoom.us/u/adQhUf3MrG)

Join by SIP
91571158172@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323
162.255.37.11 (US West)
162.255.36.11 (US East)
221.122.88.195 (China)
115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)
115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)
213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)
213.244.140.110 (Germany)
103.122.166.55 (Australia Sydney)
103.122.167.55 (Australia Melbourne)
209.9.211.110 (Hong Kong SAR)
64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
69.174.57.160 (Canada Toronto)
65.39.152.160 (Canada Vancouver)
207.226.132.110 (Japan Tokyo)
149.137.24.110 (Japan Osaka)
Meeting ID: 915 7115 8172

Join by Skype for Business
[https://zoom.us/skype/91571158172](https://zoom.us/skype/91571158172)
Requirements

1. Seminar Attendance & Participation (20%)
   a. Students must attend all seminars. Absences will be excused under mitigating
      circumstances (Keep updated on COVID related policies
      https://covidinfo.jhu.edu/).
   b. You will post weekly responses to the readings on Canvas and contribute to
      seminar discussions weekly. The success of the seminar depends on the quality of
      our collective input. Each week you will demonstrate your critical reading of the
      text, engaging with historians’ interpretation, arguments, conclusions, motives,
      assumptions, and approaches.

2. History Seminar/Lecture Review (10%)
   a. The History Department regularly holds lectures and seminars discussing the
      works of historians. Attend a history event and write a report of your visit. Your
      report will summarize the scholar’s arguments and reflect your thoughts on the
      scholarly debates by assessing the questions and comments of seminar attendees.
      Examples of history seminars include, but are not limited to the Monday Seminar,
      Due one week after the event. Upload to Canvas by 11:59PM

3. Decoding History Reflection (20%)
   a. You have decided to major in History and your parents disagree with your choice
      of major. Choose any four of the assigned readings from the unit, Decoding
      History plus two sources of your own and write a letter to your parents defending
      your choice.
      Your letters should help your parents make sense of what history is, how it’s
      made, and how it’s used. It will be useful to highlight scholarly debates, exploring
      where you see scholars agreeing and disagreeing. Reflect on how the works of
      these scholars (re)shape your own ideas about what history is and the work
      historians do. (1500 words)
      Due Wednesday October 6. Upload to Canvas by 11:59PM

4. Approaches to History Reflection (30%)
   a. Imagine you are moderating a dialogue between two or more of the historians
      listed in any one of the following units: 2,3, 4, or 5. Using at least one additional
      text published by your chosen historian, closely examining their focus,
      organization, evidence, and conclusions, what can you say about how each
      historian approaches the study of the past? What questions and assumptions guide
      their research? How do they defend their claim? What sources do they use? How
      do the approaches of these two scholars differ? What questions or critiques do
      (would) they have for each other and how do (would) they respond to critiques?
      (3000 words) Due two weeks Wednesday after the completion of the unit. Upload
      to Canvas by 11:59PM

5. Assessing Historical Sources (20%)
   a. Choose any four of the assigned readings from the unit, Sources of History plus
      two (2) sources of your own and write a how-to-guide for undergraduate history
      majors explaining how historians find, select, evaluate, and use sources. What are
      some limitations of sources and how do historians navigate them? (1500 words)
      Due December 14 Upload to Canvas by 11:59PM
**Turner’s Tips for Thriving**

Taking a history course can be a rewarding, albeit challenging experience. This course is different than most other history courses, figuring out historians’ habits of mind, how they think, how they work, and make sense of the past.

To make this experience a meaningful and rewarding one, I encourage you to come to all classes, read, take notes, and participate in class discussions. Read with an eye toward understanding the questions and assumptions guiding historians’ query, how they explain events and account for changes over time; how historians make sense of and interpret their sources and frame their arguments; what the points of convergence and divergence among historians are, including others you’ve been exposed to beyond this course. What historical approaches and writings do you find most appealing and why.

Readings, lectures, discussions, and assessments will be tough, some more than others. Stay focused and relaxed, recognizing that you are not expected to understand everything straight of the bat. With consistency, careful preparation, and active engagement in reading, writing, and discussion, you will grow in your abilities to think like historians.

You might find the following texts useful to guide your engagement with the readings and navigation of this course. **They are not required readings but are immensely useful signposts.**


Weekly Schedule
(Subject to Change. Pay attention to Canvas for announcements.)

W. Aug. 31 Welcome, Introductions


Unit 1: Decoding History

**F. Sept. 2**


**W. Sept. 7**


**F. Sept. 9**


**W. Sept. 14**


**F. Sept. 16**


F. Sept. 23  **Webinar via Zoom**


Webinar featuring Dr. Ahmed Reid, Senior Race Expert, International Monetary Fund; Kedia Delahaye Associate Trust Officer, Scotia Wealth; and Dr. Shani Roper Curator, University of the West Indies Museum.

**Unit 2: Political Economy, Histories from Below, & Historiography**


**F. Oct.14**


**Guest Scholar: Dr. Nathan Connolly**

**Unit 3: The Annales, Microhistory, and Black Feminist Geographies**

**W. Oct. 19**


**Fall Break October 20-21**

**W. Oct. 26**

Via Zoom


“Two petitions by a Jewish widow in medieval Cairo” (Geniza, 2pp)
Guest Scholar: Dr. Tamer el-Leithy

F. Oct. 28


Unit 4: Women, Gender, Feminists and Trans Histories

W. Nov. 2


F. Nov. 4

Via Zoom


Guest Scholar Dr. Julian Gill-Peterson

Unit 5: Decolonial, Postcolonial, and Subaltern Perspectives

W. Nov. 9

F. Nov. 11


W. Nov. 16

F. Nov. 18
Via Zoom


Guest Scholar: Dr. Todd Shepherd

**Thanksgiving Break NO CLASS**

**Unit 6: Sources of History**

W. Nov. 30


F. Dec. 2

W. Dec. 7  


**Guest Scholar: Dr. Yumi Kim**

F. Dec. 9  

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