



Harvard University  
History Department

History 97

# Historical Analysis

Sophomore Tutorial

Spring 2021

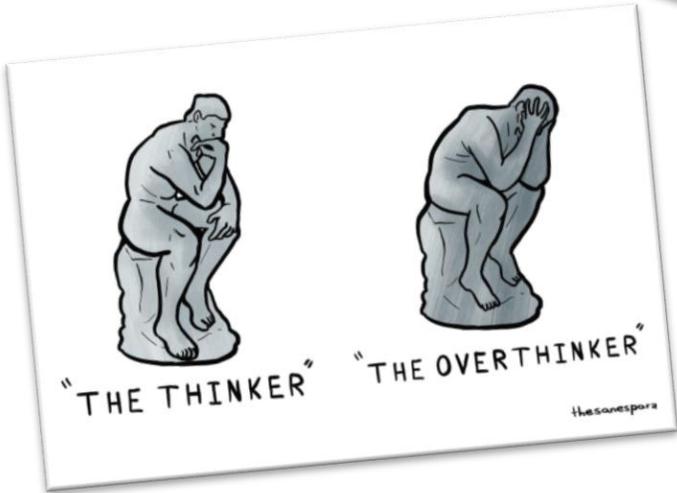


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## Seminars in Spring 2021

### **History 97B, "What is Intellectual History?" Wednesdays, 3:00-5:45pm**

**Professor Ann Blair**

Intellectual historians study almost every period, place, and theme in human history: from classical times to the present, from Asia to the Americas, by examining philosophy and religion, social and political thought, literature and art, and other expressions of human agency and intention that range from ancient epics to graphic novels. This section will draw examples from a wide range of moments and regions to ask how intellectual history has developed as a field, what methods it uses, and how it can be distinguished from other forms of history even as it informs debates of interest to all historians.

### **History 97E, "What is Imperial History?" Thursdays, 12:00-2:45pm**

**Sugata Bose**

Though empires have recently disappeared from the map, for historians these sprawling multi-ethnic, multi-confessional states remain crucial laboratories for the study of violence, power, ideology, aesthetics, and identity. This section will introduce students to the many ways historians define empires and interpret the experiences of those who inhabited them. How does one write the history of such diverse, expansive entities? How does imperial history incorporate the perspectives of disenfranchised, enslaved, and colonized peoples? What is its scale? How does the work of historians relate to images of empire generated through public commemoration and popular memory?

### **History 97H, "What is Urban History?" Tuesdays 12:00-2:45pm**

**Lizabeth Cohen**

The COVID-19 crisis and its economic fallout have directed new attention to the viability of cities in the United States. This seminar will explore the methods, sources, and ideas historians have employed to understand the evolution and significance of American urban environments. How central have cities been to American identity? What changes have taken place in the way cities have related to their larger metropolitan areas? How have ethnicity, race, gender, and sexuality played out in the urban experience? What impact have cities had on the health of the American environment? Questions like these will drive this seminar.

### **History 97I, "What is Biography?" Tuesdays 12:00-2:45pm**

**Jill Lepore**

Biographers write histories of lives. Their storytelling is often novelistic but their standards of evidence are those of the historian. They confront distinctive questions: What lives are worth writing? What is the relationship between the individual and society? What rules govern the relationship between biographers and their subjects? How has the art of biography changed over the centuries, and what forces have driven those changes? In this section, we'll read both notable biographies and the critical literature on biography as a genre that is often seen to be at odds with the conventions of other kinds of historical writing.

### **History 97P, "What is Indigenous History?" Wednesdays 12:00-2:45pm**

**Philip Deloria**

While some first peoples prefer culturally specific identities over the general term “indigenous,” others embrace indigeneity as an opportunity to establish global connections, explore overlapping colonialisms, assert political identities, or seek redress through international institutions. This seminar investigates the challenges and opportunities to be found in indigenous history. Drawing from the Americas, the Pacific, the Arctic, Asia and elsewhere, we will consider settler colonialism, genocide, slavery and *survivance*, representational politics, and a range of common challenges such as language loss, climate change, and reconciliation. We’ll explore colonial archives and oral histories, political tracts and legal cases, autobiographies, protest movements, and more.

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## **History 97: 2020-21 Harvard University**

### **Purpose of the Course**

History 97 or Sophomore Tutorial is the only course required of all History concentrators and is designed as an introduction to the discipline and the Department. It is offered only in spring and sophomore concentrators must take it that year, though the course always accepts some students who enter the concentration late. History 97 consists of 5 parallel seminars, each of which is formulated thematically and have separate reading assignments. Students across all seminars will be assigned similarly structured writing assignments, with similar due dates. History 97 is designed to be a shared experience that will equip students with a basic familiarity with the skills required for successful writing and research in history. The course seeks to develop several skills at the core of work in history: searching for and evaluating relevant secondary sources; engaging with historiography, close-reading primary sources, constructing an evidence-based historical argument, writing with footnotes, articulating constructive criticism, and revising writing based on feedback from instructors and peers.

### **Structure of the Course**

The course consists of four units of three weeks each. In the first two weeks of each unit, the course will meet as a full seminar. During the third week of each unit each course will split to meet in two tutorial sessions of 90 minutes each in which students will peer review the papers of the four members of each tutorial, with approximately 20 minutes of discussion for each student’s work.

### **Course Requirements**

All papers (except the final submission of the final paper) are due at 5pm two days before the course meets, i.e. \_\_days at 5pm. Papers must be submitted using the course website Dropbox. Percentages refer to each assignment’s percentage of the final grade.

- *Paper #1 Draft* (1500 words) due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 7/8/9 February, 5pm: 5%; *Paper #1 Revision* (1500 words) due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 14/15/16 February, 5pm: 5%
- *Paper #2 Draft* (Historiographic Essay, 1500 words) due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 28 Feb/1/2 March, 5pm: 5%; *Paper #2 Revision* (Historiographic Essay, 1500 words) due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 7/8/9 March, 5pm: 5%
- *Final paper statement of topic* and *final paper annotated bibliography* due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday March 28/29/30, 5pm
- *Paper #3* (Primary Source Analysis, 1500 words) due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 4/5/6 April, 5pm: 10%, no revision, builds toward final paper
- Final Project Portfolio, 30%

- *Final paper thesis statement and final paper outline* due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 11/12/13 April, 5pm
- *Final project presentations:* 13/14/15 April, during seminar
- *Paper #4 Draft* (Final paper, 3500 words) due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 18/19/20 April, 5pm; *Paper #4 Revision* (Final Paper, 3500 words) due Wednesday May 5, 5pm (last day of reading period)
  - Participation in seminar (20%) + participation in tutorial (20%) = 40% of final grade

Readings not for sale will be provided via the course website.

For course policies see the website and separate handout.

## **Honor Code**

## **Academic Integrity Statement**

## **Disability Accommodations Information**

<insert any seminar-specific aspects of syllabus, e.g. technology policy>

### **Unit 1: The Practice of History**

Introducing the fundamentals of academic historical study

#### **Week I (Tuesday January 26/Wednesday January 27/Thursday January 28): Seminar – Introduction to Seminar Theme/ Discussion of Common Coursewide Reading**

John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

**Monday, February 1 : Evening Plenary Session.**

#### **Week II (Tuesday Feb 2/ Wednesday Feb 3/ Thursday Feb 4): Seminar**

**Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 7/8/9 Feb, 5pm: Paper #1 Draft due**

#### **Week III (9/10/11 Feb): Tutorials**

**Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 14/15/16 Feb, 5pm: Paper #1 Revision due**

### **Unit 2: Historiography**

Identifying and understanding successive layers of historical interpretation

#### **Week IV (16/17/18 February): Seminar**

**Thursday, February 25 (or thereabouts) 1-5pm:** Include some version of these instructions to students: Please come to office hours (as per sign-up distributed in seminar) to decide on a historical theme/area of interest to you, which will be the focus of paper #2 and ideally build toward your final paper. This is an appointment held jointly with both your instructors.

**Week V (23/24/25 February): Seminar**

**Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 28 Feb/1/2 March, 5pm Paper #2 Draft due**

**Week VI (2/3/4 March): Tutorials**

**Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 7/8/9 March, 5pm: Paper #2 Revision due**

**Week VII (9/10/11 March): Seminar archive visit week (to Houghton, Schlesinger, Loeb, etc).** Visiting an on-campus archive this week will set students up for the next unit on primary source analysis. In the past, faculty have chosen one archival site suited to their seminar theme and coordinated with archivists and librarians in the Schlesinger Library, Houghton, etc. to pull materials for students to read. Many librarians/archivists will also put on presentations related to the basics of archival research upon request. Individual faculty should schedule these visits as appropriate for their seminar.

**Spring Break -week of March 15**

### **Unit 3: Primary Source Analysis**

Highlighting the range of historians' primary sources and of ways of analyzing them.

**Week VIII (23/24/25 March): Seminar.** Recommended: schedule a seminar visit from Fred Burchsted or Anna Assogba to discuss search techniques.

**Sunday/Monday/Tuesday March 28/29/30, 5pm: Final Paper statement of topic and final paper annotated bibliography due**

**Week IX 30/ 31 March /1 April: Tutorials**

**Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 4/5/6 April, 5pm: Paper #3 due**

### **Unit 4: Synthesis**

Merging historiographic and primary source analyses into historical arguments

**Week X (6/7/8 April) Seminar**

**Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 11/12/13 April: Final paper thesis statement and final paper outline due**

**Week XI (13/14/15 April): Seminar – Presentations on final paper**

**Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 18/19/20 April: Paper #4 (Final Paper) Draft due**

**Week XII (20/21/22 April): Tutorials**

**Wednesday, May 5–Paper #4 FINAL PAPER DUE AT 5PM, followed by a Plenary party in the Great Space**