HIS3942: History Practicum
History and New York City
Fall 2012

Professor Sean Adams
E-mail: spadams@history.ufl.edu
Phone: 352-273-3354
Office: 227 Keene-Flint
Office Hours: Mondays, 3:00-5:00 pm; Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 am; by appointment.

Introduction and Objectives of the Course
What is history? What do historians do? At a basic level, we reconstruct the past. But the craft of history is much more complex than a simple retelling of events that occurred decades or even centuries ago. Good historians must gather evidence, interrogate the sources that they’ve accumulated, and then synthesize them into an accessible narrative that instructs, informs, and sometimes entertains their audience. It is a difficult process that can take years of training. In this course, you’ll get a basic introduction to the discipline.

Over the course of the semester we’ll work on analyzing primary and secondary sources, recognizing historiographic trends, developing historical arguments backed by evidence, and planning an original research project. There will be essays, as with most history courses, but we’ll also be doing a number of workshop activities that will give you firsthand experience with reading, debating, and constructing history. The content matter in this particular practicum will involve New York City, which will serve as a kind of “laboratory” for you to develop your skills as a historian. My hope is that these skills will serve your academic career at the University of Florida and in your professional career after graduation. Whether that happens is up to you and your commitment to this course and your fellow classmates.

Format
This course is broken into a lecture and precept component. Every student attends the lecture sessions on Monday, Period 7 (1:55-2:45) in Keene-Flint Hall, Room 0105. The lectures will introduce some of the methodological concepts involved in the study of history and we’ll use New York City’s rich and diverse story as our “laboratory” this semester. The lecture sessions will provide the content matter for many of the assigned essays and will constitute the intellectual “backbone” of the course. The second component of the course is the smaller precept section. Students in Section 4960 will
attend their precept sections on Wednesdays, Period 7 (1:55-2:45) Keene-Flint Hall, Room 0109, while those in Section 4969 will meet their precept section on Wednesdays, Period 8 (3:00-3:50) in Keene-Flint Hall, Room 0117. In these sessions, we’ll work on the actual practice of history through discussion, workshops, and peer evaluations.

Attendance Policy and Expectations
Your active participation is critical for your success in this class. For this reason, prompt attendance at all lecture and precept sections is mandatory. You may miss one lecture and one precept section without any consequence to your grade. Each absence following that will result in the reduction of your participation grade by a full level (i.e. a B+ will become a B, a B will become a B-, and so on). Please note that arriving for class more than ten minutes late will be considered an absence.

I will provide you with details regarding the guidelines, expectations, and evaluation of this written work over the course of the semester. This is yet another reason why regular attendance in this course is not optional, but mandatory. Please be respectful to your fellow students by turning off all cell phones, arriving on time, and please avoid making excessive noise. You may use a computer or tablet to take notes, but any distracting web surfing, game playing, or other behavior will not be tolerated. Students who do not abide by these simple rules of courtesy will be asked to leave and will not receive credit for that day’s attendance and participation.

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, as it constitutes intellectual theft and academic dishonesty. If you turn in the work of others and try to pass it off as your own, you will fail that assignment and risk expulsion from the University of Florida. I will give you the guidelines, expectations, and other information regarding the written work in this course, so you really have no reason to cheat. I take these matters very seriously and will prosecute vigorously if provoked. Any possible rewards derived from plagiarism simply don’t justify the risk! All students must conform to UF’s honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, and the use of copyrighted materials, which you can find at the following address:


Required Texts
There are a number of required texts for this course. One of them is a book, available for purchase at the UF Bookstore or online:

There are other History Practicums offered this semester, so be sure that you purchase the textbook for sections 4960 and 4969.

The other readings will be available online or at the Sakai e-learning site, which you can access at:

https://lss.at.ufl.edu/

**Grades**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Proportion</th>
<th>Grade Scale</th>
<th>Grade Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation: 20%</td>
<td>100-93=A</td>
<td>A=4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precept Assignments: 30%</td>
<td>92-90=A-</td>
<td>A-=3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Essay 25%</td>
<td>89-87=B+</td>
<td>B+=3.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project 25%</td>
<td>86-82=B</td>
<td>B=3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>82-80=B-</td>
<td>B-=2.67</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>79-76=C+</td>
<td>C+=2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75-72=C</td>
<td>C=2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>71-69=C-</td>
<td>C-=1.67</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>68-66=D+</td>
<td>D+=1.33</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65-62=D</td>
<td>D=1.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>61-60=D-</td>
<td>D-=0.67</td>
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<td></td>
<td>59-0=E</td>
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**Contacts and Confidentiality**

It’s always a good idea to meet with an instructor to track your progress in a college course. I am happy to meet with you in person to discuss grades, assignments, or other course-related concerns during my regular office hours or appointments. If you have a brief question about the course, feel free to drop me an e-mail. However, I cannot accept assignments as e-mail attachments in this course without prior arrangement. I also cannot discuss grades over e-mail or the phone, as student records are confidential. UF views each student, not their parent(s), as the primary contact for all communication. For more information, see:

http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html
**Schedule of Lectures/Discussions (Subject to Change)**

**Part One: Collecting and Interpreting the Raw Ore of History**

Week One: Introduction to the Course and Discipline

- Precept Sections, 22 August
- Course Introductions


Week Two: Taking History Classes

- Lecture, 27 August
- Colonial New York

- Precept Sections, 29 August
- How to Succeed in History Class


Precept Assignment: Lecture Notes

Week Three: Context and Meaning

- 3 September—Labor Day Holiday—No Lecture

- Precept Sections, 5 September
- The Significance of History


Precept Assignment for Week Three: The Art of Summary

Week Four: Time Honored Traditions and Bad Habits

- Lecture, 10 September
- The Revolutionary Generation in New York City

- Precept Sections, 12 September
- History and Memory

Transformations of Memory Culture,” *Journal of Social History* 37 (Summer, 2004): 883-913. This article is on the e-learning website.

**Precept Assignment for Week Four: Drafting a Working Thesis**

**Week Five: Reading with Purpose**

Lecture, 17 September  
Culture Wars in the Bowery

Precept Sections, 19 September  
Reading Primary Sources Critically

**Reading Assignment for Week Five:** Patrick Rael, “How to Read a Primary Source;” from *Reading, Writing, and Researching for History: A Guide for College Students*, 2004; *New York Herald*, 12 May 1849; *Home Journal*, 12 May 1849; Excerpts from Philip Hone Diary. All of these readings are on the e-learning website.

**Precept Assignment for Week Five: One-Page Primary Source Analysis**

**Week Six: Online History**

Lecture, 24 September  
P.T. Barnum’s City

Precept Sections, 26 September  
Reconstructing History with Technology

**Reading Assignment for Week Six:** The “Lost Museum” website, found at: http://www.lostmuseum.cuny.edu/home.html.

**Precept Assignment for Week Six:** Brief Review of “The Lost Museum”

**Week Seven: When Historians Disagree**

Lecture, 1 October  
Draft Riots

Precept Sections, 3 October  
Historiography

**Reading Assignment for Week Seven:** “Draft Riot Readings” packets available on the e-learning website.

**Precept Assignment for Week Seven:** Historiographic Analysis of the Draft Riots

**Week Eight: The History Major**
Part Two: The Many Ways to Make History

Week Nine: Writing Clearly
Lecture, 15 October New York’s Gilded Age
Precept Sections, 17 October Midterm Essay Due Today

Week Ten: Planning a Project
Lecture, 22 October A City of Immigrants
Precept Sections, 24 October Research Questions


Precept Assignment for Week Ten: Three Research Questions

Week Eleven: The Fundamentals of Research
Lecture, 29 October A Sportin’ Life
Precept Sections, 31 October Research Strategies


Precept Assignment for Week Eleven: Research Strategies

Week Twelve: Pitching a Project
Lecture, 5 November Gotham’s Depression
Precept Sections, 7 November Using Film in History
Precept Assignment for Week Twelve: One-Paragraph Prospectus

Week Thirteen: Public History

Lecture, 12 November  The Center of the World?

Precept Sections, 14 November  Reconstructing the Past

http://www.mcny.org/glorydays/intro.html

Precept Assignment for Week Thirteen: Non-traditional sources

Week Fourteen: Your Project

Lecture, 19 November  Individual Meetings About Projects

No Precept Sections this week—have a good and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

Week Fifteen: Research

Lecture 26 November  “Ladies and Gentlemen, the Bronx is Burning”

Precept Sections, 28 November  The Art of Research

Precept Assignment for Week Fifteen: Brief Annotated Bibliography

Week Sixteen: Memory and History

Lecture 3 December  9/11 and the History of New York City

Precept Sections, 5 December  How To Do Recent History

Final Project Due by 12:00 p.m., 14 December 2012