

Short Term, 2006

Ver. 1.1

History s40: Introduction to Historical Methods

class electronic list = shists40a

Instructors:

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(office hours in Pettengill 106, Tuesday/Thursday/Friday at about 2:00 p.m.)

Class location & time: Pettigrew 301 (usually 10:00—12:00 & 1:00—2:00)

Catalog description: This unit provides an intensive introduction to research skills, historical literature, and the principles and methods of historical critical analysis (historiography). The unit is team-taught to acquaint students with a variety of historical assumptions and methodologies ranging from the perception of history as fiction to the belief that history is the accumulation of objective data about an ascertainable past. This unit provides important preparation for the senior thesis. Recommended background: a college-level course in history. Required of all majors.

Course objectives: This course has one main purpose. It is intended to introduce history majors to the fundamental problems, both theoretical and practical, of doing history. To that end, the course is designed around several secondary objectives. First, it confronts students with the most basic questions about the nature of historical understanding. Second, it offers an opportunity for students with almost all of their course work in the department still ahead of them to meet a range of historians, and to get a sense of some of the different ways in which people approach the discipline. Third, it acquaints everyone with the fundamentals of constructing a historical argument, from finding sources and properly citing them, to working out an interpretation and presenting it in written form.

Each year, the course focuses on a particular case study as a source of examples and problems to consider. This year, the course will focus for the first time on the Maine coast. This makes the course a preliminary experiment. However, so is much historical work, including much of that which is most interesting.

Required Books

Volume

Short Reference

Edward Hallett Carr,
What is History?
(N.Y.: Vintage, 1961)

Carr

Charles Lipson,
Doing Honest Work in College:
How to Prepare Citations, Avoid Plagiarism, and Achieve Real Academic Success
(Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004)

Lipson

Ann Curthoys & John Docker,
Is History Fiction?
(Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2005)

Curthoys

Colin Woodard,
The Lobster Coast:
Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier
(N.Y.: Penguin, 2004)

Woodard

Additional readings will be handed out in photocopied form or placed on WebCT.

Class mechanism:

Keep in mind that this course is your academic responsibility this Short Term, and that passing it before your senior year is a necessary condition for completing a History major at Bates. Just to repeat that crucial fact in other terms – you cannot register to write a senior thesis in History unless you have previously passed this course. In Registrar-speak, History s40 is a prerequisite for either History 457 or 458, and it is difficult for the department to imagine any circumstance under which the prerequisite would be waived. There are activities (think field trip) which will undoubtedly stray outside normal class hours. Failure to be present is almost tantamount to a decision on your part to fail the course. It is your responsibility to be sure that any other obligation you take on during Short Term is compatible with taking this class.

Most of the time, however, the class will meet on a schedule close to the following:

	Monday—Tuesday // --- // Thursday—Friday
morning session:	10:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon
afternoon session:	1:00 p.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Unless you are informed otherwise, you do not need to appear before 10:00 a.m. ***Read the syllabus carefully, and make sure you stay current with any thesis revisions that are handed out in class!*** Not every week observes this schedule, and revisions to the syllabus will inevitably have to be made as Short Term progresses, because the course plan is subject to the schedules of so many other people, both on campus and off.

GRADING:

Class participation	35%
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Note that “participation” is more than just “attendance,” which has its own nuances. Being physically present in class is the first step toward attendance, just as being prepared to speak relevantly is the first step toward participation, which calls for active, intelligent involvement in the course material and the functioning of the class.

Short exercises, writing prompts, quizzes	30%
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Final project paper	35%	[separate handout forthcoming]
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ABSENCES:

Each absence from class without an official excuse from both instructors (talk to us when we’re together) drops the final grade by 1/3rd of a grade (e.g., from a B+ to a B). Each absence from a class trip without an official excuse drops the final grade by two full letter grades (e.g., from a B to a D).

You are reminded, one more time, that passing this class is required for completing a History major.

Class Schedule

Week One: The Basics

C1. Monday 24 April

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Introductory mechanics

Introduction: What is history?

(small groups work with questions on handout)

Pick up Writing Prompt #1 on Carr

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Small groups present their results

C2. Tuesday 25 April

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Turn in Writing Prompt #1

Carr, Chapter I (pp. 3-35)

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

meet at the Reference Desk in Ladd Library *[class divided into two groups]*

Library Introduction (Group 1 – 1:00-2:00,
Group 2 – 2:00-3:00)

Library Tour (Group 2 – 1:30-2:00,
Group 1 – 2:00-2:30)

C3. Wednesday 26 April

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Carr, Chapters II & III (pp. 36-112)

Pick up Writing Prompt #2

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

no regular class meeting

C4. Thursday 27 April

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Turn in Writing Prompt #2

Carr, Chapters IV & V (pp. 113-176)

afternoon – **meet at the Muskie Archives** *[class divided into two groups]*

Bates College Special Collections **Group 1 at 1:00—2:00**

Kat Stefko & Elaine Ardia **Group 2 at 2:00—3:00**

[insist on proper attendance by group!]

C5. Friday 28 April

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Carr, Chapter VI (pp. 177-209)

afternoon – **meet at the Muskie Archives** *[class divided into two groups]*

Oral History (Muskie, etc.) **Group 1 at 1:00—2:00**

Andrea L'Hommedieu **Group 2 at 2:00—3:00**

[1/2 hour will work for C4 p.m., C5 p.m. session did not work!]

Week Two: Concepts & Mechanics

C6. Monday 01 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Curthoys, Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1-49)

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Lipson, Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 3-31)

C7. Tuesday 02 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Curthoys, Chapters 3 & 4 (pp. 50-89)

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Lipson, Chapter 3 (pp. 32-48)

Pick up Citation Exercise

No class meeting on Wednesday 03 May.

C8. Thursday 04 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Turn in Citation Exercise

Curthoys, Chapters 5 & 6 (pp. 90-136)

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Lipson, Chapters 4 & 14 (pp. 49-56, 171-181)

C9. Friday 05 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Curthoys, Chapter 7 (pp. 137-153)

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Lipson, Chapter 5 (pp. 57-85)

meet at the Reference Desk in Ladd Library for the afternoon session

RefWorks Introduction

Group 1 – 1:00-1:30

Group 2 – 1:30-2:00

[this was too rushed, too ragged]

Week Three: The Maine Coast – Introduction & Colonial Background

C10. Monday 08 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Taking a census of the class's knowledge of the coast...

Woodard, Chapter One (pp. 3-47) [Monhegan as microcosm]

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Professors Creighton, Halloran

C11. Tuesday 09 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Woodard, Chapter Two (pp. 51-75) [Exploration up to 17th century]

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Professor Michael Jones – BRING CARR

Wednesday 10 May

**FIELD TRIP – Maine Maritime Museum (Bath)
Morse Mountain (Phippsburg)**

meet 8:15 a.m. in front of Chase Hall (note: you don't want to miss this bus!)

C12. Thursday 11 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Woodard, Chapter Three (pp. 76-115) [17th century pressure on Native Americans]

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Professors Cole, Scobey

C13. Friday 12 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Woodard, Chapter Four (pp. 116-154) [18th century land wars]

Pick up Writing Prompt #3

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Professors Jensen, Hirai

Week Four: The Maine Coast – From the Early Republic to the Present

C14. Monday 15 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Turn in Writing Prompt #3

Woodard, Chapter Five (pp. 157-192) [19th century fisheries]

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

State Senator Ethan Strimling

C15. Tuesday 16 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Woodard, Chapter Six (pp. 193-231) [20th century economic collapse]

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Hochstadt [Melvin, Grafflin?]

Wednesday 17 May

**FIELD TRIP – Maine Historical Society
Portland Harbor Museum**

meet 8:15 in front of Chase Hall

C16. Thursday 18 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Woodard, Chapter Seven (pp. 235-278) [the lobster industry]

afternoon – 3:00-4:30 p.m. [NOTE CHANGE IN CLASS TIME]

EVENING SPEAKER: Colin Woodard 7:30 p.m. Keck Classroom (PGILL G52)

C17. Friday 19 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Woodard, Chapter Eight (pp. 279-318) [present day stresses]

afternoon – no class.

Week Five: The Future as History -- Independent Projects

C18. Monday 22 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Curthoys, Chapter 8 (pp. 154-179)

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Individual appointments

C19. Tuesday 23 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Curthoys, Chapter 9 (pp. 180-205)

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Individual appointments

C20. Thursday 25 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Curthoys, Chapter 10 (pp. 206-219)

afternoon – 1:00 p.m.

Individual appointments

C21. Friday 26 May

morning – 10:00 a.m.

Curthoys, Chapter 11 (pp. 220-237)

Lunch: RESEARCH PROJECT PAPERS DUE!