

HH 1001 (Semester 1, 2018-2019)

What is History?

Lectures – Day, Venue and Time: Wednesday, LHS-LT, 9.30–11.30 am

Tutorials – Day, Venue: Wednesday, LHS-TR+33

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 (Allow 24 hours turnaround)

Office: HSS-05-20
 Hours: Thursdays, 2.00 to 4.00 pm
 (Appointment by email **ONLY**)



“Those who don’t study history are doomed to repeat it. Yet those who *do* study history are doomed to stand by helplessly while everyone else repeats it.”

Course Aims

“What is History” introduces you to the discipline of history and helps you to develop the skills to turn data about the past into historical narratives. Through this course, you will become familiar with the methods of historians, learning what kinds of sources historians use, how they use them, and how they write historical essays? Additionally, you will examine the different approaches to history, including the use of culture (race, gender, religion, etc) and science in historical analysis, as well as the study of global, economic and environmental history.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you (as a student) would be able to:

1. Describe the discipline of history and compare its methods, the major approaches to writing history, and different philosophies of history.
2. Apply secondary sources toward addressing historical questions.
3. Demonstrate interpretation skills by analysing primary sources.
4. Recognize the basic rules of academic writing in history, especially the rules regarding plagiarism and citation.

Course Materials

Reading materials for this course will, unless indicated, be on NTU Learn (Content Tab).

ASSESSMENTS

Component	Weight	Team/ Individual	Brief Description (Assignment instructions will be made available on NTU Learn following add/drop)
Participation/ Discussion	20%	Individual	Students will contribute to discussions of each week’s assigned readings and respond to instructor’s questions in tutorials as well as lectures.
Pop Quizzes	10%	Individual	A number of pop quizzes (based on lectures and readings) will be administered during lectures. The dates of these quizzes will not be announced beforehand. Quizzes commence at the start of lecture sessions. There are no make-ups for quizzes (without medical certificates).
Book Review Essay	15%	Individual	Students will write an 500-word review of assigned chapters from Benedict Anderson, <i>Imagined Communities</i> (1983) OR <i>The Invention of Tradition</i>

			(1983) edited by Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger. Date Due: 26 September 2018 (hardcopy in class; submission via NTU LEARN by 5:00pm)
Synthetic Essay	20%	Team	Using the assigned readings and lectures, teams will write an 800-word essay addressing the question: "What is History?" Date Due: 17 October 2018 (hardcopy in class; submission via NTU LEARN by 5:00pm)
Final Project: Shan v Thum Rematch	30%	Team (Teams will role-play either Shanmugam or PJ Thum; teammates and roles will be randomly assigned)	The final assignment has THREE components (more details in the Final Project Packet): 1. <u>One Page Retorts</u> : Teams will write a 200-word response to the Select Committee Hearing and the current state of the conversation, setting up the points of contention for the Rematch. 2. <u>Rematch Hearings</u> : Teams will be paired to engage each other on their One Page Retorts, each engagement lasting 20-minutes (moderated by instructor). These engagements will take place over the last two lectures of the semester. 3. <u>Final Report</u> : Teams will write an 800-word final report comparing their team's performance in the Shan v Thum Rematch against other teams, citing materials in the Final Project Packet and other assigned readings, where relevant. <u>One Page Retorts to be submitted electronically by 31 October 2018. The instructor will circulate these to the rest of the class.</u> <u>Rematch Hearings will take place on 7 and 14 November 2018.</u> <u>Final Reports are due on 23 November 2018, (Hardcopy at 12:00 PM; Electronic submission via NTU Learn at 5:00 PM)</u> <u>Note: Final Project Packet will not be available until after the Add/Drop period is over.</u>
	5%	Individual	Compulsory Self and Peer Review Form. Students will complete this form to evaluate their contribution to the team project alongside that of their teammates. This must be submitted in hardcopy only to the instructor's mailbox on 26 November 2018 by 5:00pm. Failure to submit this form constitutes a forfeit of this grade component.
Total	100%		

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week	Lecture Topic	Tutorials, Themes, Readings
1. (15 Aug)	Introduction	No tutorials in Week 1
2. (22 Aug)	Hari Raya Haji – Public Holiday – No Classes	
3. (29 Aug)	Sources (Particulars) and the Story (General)	<i>Narratives</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hayden White, "The Question of Narrative in Contemporary Historical Theory," <i>History and Theory</i> (1984), 32pp.
4. (5 Sep)	History and the Nation	<i>Contested Nation/ Society</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scott Sandage, "A Marble House Divided: The Lincoln Memorial, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Politics of Memory, 1939-1963," <i>Journal of American History</i> (1993), 34pp.
5. (12 Sep)	Types of History I	<i>Environment/ Economics as a Lens</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miles Powell, "People in Peril, Environments at Risk: Coolies, Tigers, and Colonial Singapore's Ecology of Poverty," <i>Environment and History</i> (2016), 27pp.
6. (19 Sep)	Types of History II	<i>World, Global, Transnational and International (and Micro?)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Iglar, "Diseased Goods: Global Exchanges in the Eastern Pacific Basin, 1770-1850," <i>The American Historical Review</i> (2004), 28pp.
7. (26 Sep)	Analytical Lenses in History I: Religion, Science, Race	<i>Religion and Science</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ronald Numbers, "Creationism, intelligent design and modern biology" in Denis Alexander and Ronald L. Numbers (eds.), <i>Biology and Ideology from Descartes to Dawkins</i> (2010), 27pp. <p>Book review due: Hardcopy in class (9:30am) and via NTU LEARN (5:00pm). A complete submission comprises both hardcopy and electronic versions.</p>
Mid-Semester Recess		
8. (10 Oct)	Analytical Lenses in History II: Gender	<i>Women and Gender (and Class)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jill Lepore, "Birthright: What's Next for Planned Parenthood?" <i>The New Yorker</i> (2011), 28pp.
9. (17 Oct)	A Fundamentally Subversive Discipline	<i>Progress</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Graeber, "Of Flying Cars and the Declining Rate of Profit," <i>The Baffler</i> (March 2012), ~28pp. <p>Synthetic Essay due: Hardcopy in class (9:30am) and via NTU LEARN (5:00pm). A complete submission comprises both hardcopy and electronic versions.</p>
10. (24 Oct)	Film and History	<i>Pre-Emptying the Final Project</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Jones, "Creating Malaysia: Singapore security, the Borneo territories, and the contours of British policy, 1961-3," <i>Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History</i> (2000), 25pp. Selected news articles on the Select Committee Hearing. Primary sources associated with the Hearing.
11. (31 Oct)	History, Meaning-Making and the "Truth"	<i>Structure, Agency and Contingency</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ted Chiang, "The Story of Your Life" (2000), 39pp. <p>NOTE: One Page Retorts to be submitted electronically by 5:00 pm.</p>

12. (7 Nov)	Group Presentations for Final Project/ Discussion / Review (See Final Project Instruction Packet)	No tutorial in Week 12
13. (14 Nov)		Last Tutorial: Review of Final Projects and Coursework
Final Project Report, Due 23 November 2018, 12:00 PM Compulsory Self and Peer Review Form, Due 26 November 2018, 5:00 PM (via NTU LEARN and Hardcopy to instructor’s mailbox, HSS 5 th Floor)		

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities
<p>General</p> <p>Students are expected to complete all assigned pre-class readings and activities, attend all lectures and tutorials punctually and submit all scheduled assignments by due dates. Students are expected to take responsibility to follow up with course notes, assignments and course related announcements for sessions they have missed. Students are expected to participate in all seminar discussions.</p>
<p>Absenteeism</p> <p>This course requires you to be in class to contribute to discussions and team presentations. These in-class activities make up a significant portion of your course grade. Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your overall course grade. Valid reasons include either falling sick supported by a medical certificate, or participation in NTU’s approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies. <u>There will be no make-up opportunities for team presentations.</u></p>
<p>Late Policy</p> <p>Late written work will be penalized. <u>The penalty is active once the piece is one hour late.</u> At this point, the essay will immediately lose one letter grade. Following, the essay will be docked a letter grade for each day (i.e. 24 hours) it remains overdue. For example, an essay that is 2 days late that should have scored an A (if it had been on time), will receive no higher than a C grade.</p> <p><u>Extensions may be granted in some special cases, but not within one week of the deadline.</u></p>
<p>Plagiarism and Cheating</p> <p>Universities consider using the works of others without properly acknowledging that use (that is, copying) to be “cheating.” <u>In this course, such behavior will result in a score of zero on the assignment in question. In accordance with school policy, I will also report egregious cases to the university to be placed on record in your academic file.</u> Learn how to cite the work of others properly. If in doubt, ask.</p>
<p>Academic Integrity</p> <p>Good academic work depends on honesty and ethical behaviour. The quality of your work as a student relies on adhering to the principles of academic integrity and to the NTU Honour Code, a set of values shared by the whole university community. Truth, Trust and Justice are at the core of NTU’s shared values.</p> <p>As a student, it is important that you recognize your responsibilities in understanding and applying the principles of academic integrity in all the work you do at NTU. Not knowing what is involved in maintaining academic integrity does not excuse academic dishonesty. You need to actively equip yourself with strategies to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, academic fraud, collusion and cheating. If you are uncertain of the definitions of any of these terms, you should go to the academic integrity website (http://www.ntu.edu.sg/ai/Pages/academic-integrity-policy.aspx) for more information. Consult your instructor(s) if you need any clarification about the requirements of academic integrity in the course.</p>