

HH 1001 (Semester 1, 2019-2020)

What is History?

Lectures – Day, Venue and Time: Tuesdays, LT29, 9.30–11.30 am

Tutorials – Day, Venue: Tuesdays, 12:30-3:30pm (3 one-hour tutorials), LHS-TR+45

Dr. Ngoei Wen-Qing

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(Allow 24 hours turnaround)

Office: HSS-05-20

Hours: Wednesday, 2.00 to 4.00 pm

(Appointment by email ONLY)

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.

ASSESSMENTS (ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN WEEK 3)

Component	Weight	Team/ Individual	Brief Description
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	15%	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 may commence at the start or in the middle of lecture sessions. There are no make-ups for quizzes (without medical certificates).
Synthetic Essay	25%	Individual	Using the assigned readings and lectures, teams will write an 800-word essay addressing the question: “What is History?” (due 24 September)
Final Project:	30%	Team	Teams will design a history lesson plan for upper secondary students that engages either (i) Sonny Liew’s <i>The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye</i> (2015), or (ii) Tan Pin Pin’s <i>To Singapore with Love</i> (2013). The project has three components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) a proposal of the lesson plan and offering/ responding feedback (22 Oct), (2) a lesson plan of 2-pages that references secondary sources assigned (6 Nov), and (3) a delivery of the lesson (7 and 14 Nov). Instructions to be distributed in Week 3. See below for the assigned secondary sources and note that part of your task is to acquire them on your own.
	10%	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 19 November 2019 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. (13 Aug)	Introduction	No tutorials in Week 1
2. (20 Aug)	Sources (Particulars) and the Story (General)	<i>Narratives</i> Selection from Hayden White’s Introduction to <i>Metahistory: The Historical Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Europe</i> (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973), 1-11 only.

		[NOTE: This reading is available on googlebooks online]
3. (27 Aug)	History and the Nation	<i>Contested Nation/ Society</i> 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.
4. (3 Sep)	Types of History I	<i>Environment/ Economics as a Lens</i> Miles Powell, "People in Peril, Environments at Risk: Coolies, Tigers, and Colonial Singapore's Ecology of Poverty," <i>Environment and History</i> (2016), 27pp.
5. (10 Sep)	Film and History	<i>In class viewing and Discussion:</i> Tan Pin Pin, <i>Invisible City</i> (2007) and/ or <i>Moving House</i> (Discovery Channel, 2001) NOTE: 10 Sep is Students' Union Day. Lecture will still proceed as per normal (students involved with Union events may leave at 10:30am). There will be no tutorials.
6. (17 Sep)	Types of History II	<i>World, Global, Transnational and International (and Micro?)</i> David Iglar, "Diseased Goods: Global Exchanges in the Eastern Pacific Basin, 1770-1850," <i>The American Historical Review</i> (2004), 28pp.
7. (24 Sep)	Analytical Lenses in History I: Religion, Science, Race	<i>Religion and Science</i> 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. NOTE: Synthetic Essay Due
Mid-Semester Recess		
8. (8 Oct)	Analytical Lenses in History II: Gender	<i>Women and Gender (and Class)</i> Jill Lepore, "Birthright: What's Next for Planned Parenthood?" <i>The New Yorker</i> (2011), 28pp.
9. (15 Oct)	A Fundamentally Subversive Discipline	<i>Progress</i> David Graeber, "Of Flying Cars and the Declining Rate of Profit," <i>The Baffler</i> (March 2012), ~28pp.
10. (22 Oct)	Circulation of Lesson Plan Proposal, Offering Feedback and Responding to Feedback	<i>Secondary Readings for 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. • Huang Jianli, "Positioning the Student Political Activism of Singapore: Articulation, Contestation and Omission," <i>Inter-Asia Cultural Studies</i> (2006), 27pp. • Loh Kah Seng, "Within the Singapore Story: The Use and Narrative of History in Singapore," <i>Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies</i> (1998), 22pp • Sunil Amrith, "Internationalism and Political Pluralism in Singapore, 1950-1963" in <i>Paths Not Taken: Political Pluralism in Post-war Singapore</i>, edited by Michael D. Barr (NUS Press, 2008), 20pp. [NOTE: Part of your task is to acquire these secondary sources on your own.]
11. (29 Oct)	History, Meaning-Making and the "Truth"	<i>Structure, Agency and Contingency</i> Ted Chiang, "The Story of Your Life" (2000), 39pp.
12. (5 Nov)	Presentations for Final Project/ Discussion / Review	No tutorial in Week 12
13. (12 Nov)		Last Tutorial: Review of Final Projects and Coursework
Compulsory Self and Peer Review Form, Due 19 November 2019, 5:00 PM (via NTU LEARN and Hardcopy to instructor's mailbox, HSS 5th Floor)		