

ACADEMIC SESSION 2018-2019

HI356J: THINKING HISTORY

30 CREDITS: 11 WEEKS

**PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:**

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

**You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.**

**COURSE CO-ORDINATOR**

Dr Alessandra Cecolin – 01224 27 2348 – [alessandra.cecolin@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:alessandra.cecolin@abdn.ac.uk)

Office Hour: Tuesday 1-2pm

**COURSE TEAM**

Dr Heidi Mehrkens – 01224 27 2466 – [heidi.mehrkens@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:heidi.mehrkens@abdn.ac.uk)

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Dr. Alex Campsie – 01224 27 2460 – [alexandre.campsie@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:alexandre.campsie@abdn.ac.uk)

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Dr. Andrew Dilley – 01224 27 3884 – [a.dilley@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:a.dilley@abdn.ac.uk)

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**Discipline Administration**

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## TIMETABLE

For time and place of classes, please see [MyAberdeen](#)

*Students can view their university timetable at*  
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course looks at how history is written. It considers the problems involved in studying and explaining the past, and the many dilemmas faced by historians in reconstructing it. By examining the ways in which history has been written from the Ancient Greeks to Postmodernism, it considers the limits of historical study, asks whether history can ever be a science, and reveals the assumptions behind the various approaches to history that inform its writing. It is designed to provide Honours history students with an essential understanding of what they are doing when they study history.

It will offer a broad context for understanding developments in the discipline of history during the modern and contemporary periods. It will ask students: to consider what form of thinking and writing 'history' is; to relate the historiographical developments discussed during the module to their Special Subject; and to consider the historiographical framework of their final-year dissertation.

## INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course examines the problematic nature of history as a discipline, the approach to those problems taken by historians throughout the ages, and its contemporary relevance. It also explores how particular approaches link to and shape historical research.

**Learning outcomes.** At the end of the course students should have:

- Attained a better understanding of the problematic nature of history as a discipline, the approach taken to those problems by historians throughout the ages, and its contemporary relevance;
- An enhanced ability to reflect philosophically on the nature of historical work and historical judgement;
- A broader and more critical understanding of historical concepts and the variety of approaches to history;
- Greater insight into the problems of conducting historical research that will inform approaches to other Honours history courses;
- Been exposed to the thinking of major figures in the development of history as a scholarly discipline.

## LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

### Week 1: What is Historiography? Introduction & outline of seminar topics – Dr Alessandra Cecolin

**Lecture:** Cannadine, D. (ed.), *What is History Now?* (New York, 2009), Ch. 1

### Week 2: Social History – Dr Alex Campsie

**Lecture:** Cannadine chapter on Social history

#### **Seminar: readings:**

- Lynn Abrams, 'Liberating the female self: epiphanies, conflict and coherence in the life stories of post-war British women', *Social History* 39:1 (2014), 14-35.
- Selina Todd, 'Class, experience and Britain's twentieth century', *Social History* 39:4 (2014), 489-508.

**Primary source:** Jenny Smith interviewed for 'Observing the 1980s project', 2012

<https://soundcloud.com/observing80s/sets/jenny-smith>

### Week 3: Political History – Dr Alex Campsie

**Lecture:** Cannadine chapter on Political history

#### **Seminar readings:**

- Jon Lawrence, 'Labour and the politics of class, 1900-1940', in David Feldman and Jon Lawrence, *Structures and Transformations in Modern British History: Essays in Honour of Gareth Stedman Jones* (Cambridge 2011), chapter 10
- H.G.C. Matthew, R. I. McKibbin and J.A. Tay, 'The Franchise Factor in the Rise of the Labour Party', *English Historical Review* (1976)

#### **Primary source:**

'Lossiemouth. Among "His Ain Folk". Mr Ramsay MacDonald has rousing reception from his fellow townfolk on arrival for a few days rest at his beloved Scottish birthplace' (1931).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhzrjk0bMmc>

## Week 4: Intellectual – Prof Michael Brown

**Lecture:** Cannadine chapter on Intellectual history

### **Seminar Readings:**

- Foucault M., 'What is Enlightenment?', in *The Foucault Reader* edited by Rabinow (available in the library)
- Todorov T., *In Defence of the Enlightenment* (2009)

### **Primary source**

An Answer to the Question 'What is Enlightenment?' by Immanuel Kant in *Cambridge Selected Political Writings*

## Week 5: Global History – Dr Andrew Dilley

**Lecture:** O'Brien, P., 'Historiographical Traditions and Modern Imperatives for the Restoration of Global History', *Journal of Global History*, 1 (2006), 3-39

URL: : [https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/BF3EF153990D7B7FD524B8CE6A3E4AAC/S174002280600027a.pdf/historiographical\\_traditions\\_and\\_modern\\_imperatives\\_for\\_the\\_restoration\\_of\\_global\\_history.pdf](https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/BF3EF153990D7B7FD524B8CE6A3E4AAC/S174002280600027a.pdf/historiographical_traditions_and_modern_imperatives_for_the_restoration_of_global_history.pdf)

### **Seminar Readings:**

- Geoff Eley; 'Historicizing the Global, Politicizing Capital: Giving the Present a Name', *History Workshop Journal*, Volume 63, Issue 1, 1 (March 2007), 154–188: <https://doi.org/10.1093/hwj/dbm010>

- Burton, A., 'Not Even Remotely Global? Method and Scale in World History', *History Workshop Journal*, 64 (2007), 323-28.

URL:<https://watermark.silverchair.com/dbm039.pdf?token=AQECAHi208B E49Ooan9kkhW Ercy7Dm3ZL 9Cf3qfKAc485ysgAAAicwggliBqkqhkiG9w0B BwagggIUUMIICEAIBADCCAgkGCSqGSIb3DQEHATAeBgIghkgBZQMEAS4wEQ QMjPZoWgISRIGmul4YAgEQgIIB2qzjGXW0a04TtMTJ7B9rjDysb0A7m03tFw kW NOCM VOBuALoXOUliuuuUOhGUPiBRjyykLsvlg44mFjcv8nUJlcl8TUqA GAIQ oocky0yyyq5BCS7CttPCOrKPgJXjBVNzKpzl35GNFPa3CAHUmxGzsPaYz 3OPD4yEN0XsP UjLt30XzbquyTw09y5QrNxYJe19L7kdcV1KjllCQZsSTZO-rJADy7x3rWAdA1RHuu Dk48ScXrI9ZZIjChg8z7r E4DzJuAtnRahYW0bzZ EQ Sd3ayR1N1dpOZjp-zZhBkH75DqXMUBv1QAZLoAoe54Nno5C3NGUeptiioynvEFrjJR9MIMkNcvM ppT9NpLmSAQKtblaBIRO hMsqVV1VfjhUV8WFuU7FfN2 4QpeKNDWNqX SRK0omEmrap-PXtEJrIkI3V GPC97vBhHZIUsWfm8SVvjgAaqkKBU0KMZ9D72dQ5BE9mEiOo v07j9DcxZIZvo8D5GdVCK81CRT9JvcFTjl ->

[tGm9mDqhjHAzoMMjYEokqkUHiJczjaHM62WeyBOCOwC3idyslyc85-gkINTmgjY8C6kQr6CZB6lQnWm4l7xQ6PZXUSCUQS8 HMzFSJ9Zuz12Xqi9QF1xA](http://www.empire.amdigital.co.uk/Download/FullDownload?file=Address%20to%20the%20Nations%20of%20the%20World%20by%20the%20PanAfrican%20Conference#Snippits)

**Primary source:** Pan African Congress Declaration, 1900:

[http://www.empire.amdigital.co.uk/Download/FullDownload?file=Address to the Nations of the World by the PanAfrican Conference\Address to the Nations of the World by the PanAfrican Conference.pdf&documentid=Address to the Nations of the World by the PanAfrican Conference](http://www.empire.amdigital.co.uk/Download/FullDownload?file=Address%20to%20the%20Nations%20of%20the%20World%20by%20the%20PanAfrican%20Conference.pdf&documentid=Address%20to%20the%20Nations%20of%20the%20World%20by%20the%20PanAfrican%20Conference)

If this does not work, try here:

<http://www.empire.amdigital.co.uk/Documents/SearchDetails/Address%20to%20the%20Nations%20of%20the%20World%20by%20the%20PanAfrican%20Conference#Snippits>

### **Week 6: Area studies: The Middle East – Dr Alessandra Cecolin**

**Lecture:** Hourani A., 'How should we write the History of the Middle East?', *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 23, No. 2 (May 1991), 125-136 URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/164233.pdf>

#### **Seminar Readings:**

- Said, E. *Orientalism* (New York, 1978), Introduction  
There are multiple versions available at the library.
- Lewis B., 'The question of Orientalism', *The New York Review Books* (1982) URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/164233.pdf>

**Primary source** Jean-Léon Gérôme, *The snake charmer and his audience*, c. 1879, oil on canvas (Sterling Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts) URL: <https://smarthistory.org/orientalism/>

### **Week 7: Gender History – Dr Elizabeth Macknight**

**Lecture:** Cannadine chapter on Gender History

#### **Seminar Readings:**

- Louise A. Tilly, 'Gender, Women's History, and Social History', *Social Science History*, 13 (1989), 439-62
- Siân Reynolds, 'Historiography and gender: Scottish and international dimensions', in Terry Brotherstone, Deborah Simonton & Oonagh Walsh (eds), *Gendering Scottish History: an international perspective* (Glasgow, 1999)

**Primary source:** Joan W. Scott, 'Gender: a Useful Category of Historical Analysis', *American Historical Review* 91 (1986), 1053-1075 (MyAberdeen)

### **Week 8: Religious History – Dr Marie-Luise Ehrenschwendtner**

**Lecture:** Cannadine chapter on Religious history

**Seminar Reading:**

- Leopold von Ranke, Preface to *the History of the Popes, Their Church and State*, in A. Budd, *Modern Historiography Reader* (2008), 174-77
- Euan Cameron, *Interpreting Christian History* (Oxford, 2005), 1-10

**Primary source:** MyAberdeen

### **Week 9: History of Sexuality – Prof Bill Naphy**

**Lecture:** Clark-Huckstep, A. E., 'The History of Sexuality and Historical Methodology', *Cultural History*, vol. 5 (2016), 179-99

**Seminar Readings:**

- Eisner, Caroline L., 'Shifting the Focus: Anne Lister as Pillar of Conservatism', *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*, vol. 17 (2001), 28-42
- Orr, D., "'I tell myself to myself": Homosexual agency in the journals of Anne Lister (1791-1840)', *Women's Writing*, vol. 11 (2004), 201-22

**Primary Source:** H. Whitbread, ed., *The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister* (London, 2010), 219-22, 229 (MyAberdeen)

### **Week 10: History of Emotions – Dr Heidi Mehrkens**

**Lecture:** Rosenwein, Barbara H. and Riccardo Cristiani, 'Approaches', in: Rosenwein, Barbara H. and Cristiani, Riccardo (eds), *What is the History of Emotions?* (Cambridge 2018), 26-61

**Seminar Readings:**

- Febvre, Lucien, 'Sensibility and History: How to Reconstitute the Emotional Life of the Past', in: Peter Burke (ed.), *A New Kind of History. From the Writings of Febvre* (London 1973), 12-26.

- Plamper, Jan, 'The History of Emotions: An Interview with William Reddy, Barbara Rosenwein, and Peter Stearns', *History and Theory*, 49/2 (2010), 237-65 (available on JSTOR)

**Primary source:** Franz Xaver Winterhalter: *The Family of Queen Victoria* (1846):

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Franz\\_Xaver\\_Winterhalter\\_Family\\_of\\_Queen\\_Victoria.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Franz_Xaver_Winterhalter_Family_of_Queen_Victoria.jpg)

## **Week 11: Conclusion – Dr Alessandra Cecolin**

### **READING LIST**

Required text:

Cannadine, D. (ed.), *What is History Now?* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2009)

### **SECONDARY READING**

See MyAberdeen.

### **ASSESSMENT**

1. CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT: (40%): HISTORICAL APPROACHES. Students will write one 2,500-word essay (word count including quotations and footnotes, excluding bibliography)
2. ONE THREE-HOUR EXAMINATION (60%). Students will answer two questions on themes from the lecture schedule, and one question on extracts selected from the set texts studied in the first three weeks of the seminar sessions.

RESIT: Resit examination (100%)

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to **MyAberdeen- Organisations- Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates**. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

**PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.**

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will **normally be provided within three working weeks** (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

## ESSAYS

Students will write one 2,500-word essay (word count including quotations and footnotes, excluding bibliography)

## LIST OF ESSAY TOPICS

See MyAberdeen

## ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Essay deadline = Friday 29 March by 3.00 pm

## SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Submit **one paper copy** with a completed essay cover sheet to the **drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds** and **one official electronic copy to TurnitinUK via MyAberdeen**. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

**Paper Copy:** One paper copy, typed and double spaced, together with an **Assessment cover sheet** – this should have your ID number **clearly** written on the cover sheet, with **NO** name or signature but **EVERYTHING ELSE** completed, including tutor's name – and should be delivered to the drop boxes in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds.

**Electronic Copy:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via [MyAberdeen](#). (for instructions please see <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/>) Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 HI356J Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. HI356J Essay 1.

Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.



**Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK, and an identical paper copy, will result in a deduction of marks.**  
**Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.**

## **EXAMINATION**

Guidance on the examination will be given during teaching sessions. See also the Student Handbook for general exam guidance.

*Past exam papers can be viewed at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/>.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Candidates whose first language is not English may refer to English/native tongue dictionaries. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted in the examination venue. Invigilators are entitled to request inspection of dictionaries prior to the examination, thumbing through them to check that there is no extra written material present.