HIS 100-01

Making History: The Rise of the Railroad

Spring Semester 2010
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 – 9:50 a.m.
Alumni Recitation Hall #102

COURSE INFORMATION
Dr. Kelly J. Maynard, Grinnell College Department of History
Office: Mears #211
Office Phone: (641) 269-4465
Office Hours: M/W 10-11 a.m. at the Grill, M 4:15-6:15 p.m. in Mears #211, and by appointment
Email: maynardk@grinnell.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to issues of historical causation, argumentation, and evidence through the lens of one of the most significant developments in modern history: the rise of the railroad. After introductory units on historical methods and the technological history of the railroad, we will spend the bulk of the semester examining the political, social, economic, environmental, and aesthetic repercussions of the railroad at particular junctures including Grinnell itself, British India, 1890s Chicago, the Paris Metro, and train transport during the Holocaust.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is intended to cultivate the skills essential to becoming a historian or, at least for starters, a history major. We will engage critically with a range of primary sources, learning to interrogate their authorship, biases, contexts, and variably interpretable meanings. We will examine the work of modern scholars and learn to position their arguments in relation to one another, developing sensitivity to the multiplicity of ways in which one can construct – or make – history. We will develop skills in the clear, concise formulation of ideas with particular attention to the writing of thesis statements and the marshalling of appropriate evidence in support of a scholarly argument. At the same time, this course will also introduce students to five very different contexts in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in which the railroad played a central role in historical events and experience.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Please come to class awake, on time, and prepared for discussion with the reading assignments for that day in hand, thoughtfully read and annotated. I do take attendance as well as careful notes about the quality, frequency, and collaborative character (or not) of your participation in class discussions, group projects, etc. Because I place such emphasis on the cooperative nature of our learning together in the classroom, your participation grade makes up fully one third of your overall grade for the course. Thus it is both your responsibility and in your best interests to come to every class except in case of dire, documented emergency. Three unexcused absences will earn you an F for the participation grade in this course. Four will earn you an F for the course itself. Your grade will be calculated according to the following formula:

- Participation 35%
- Film review 5%
- Footnote assignment 5%
- Article review assignment 5%
- Thesis statement assignment I 5%
- Thesis statement assignment II 10%
- Final presentation 15%
- Annotated bibliography 20%

Do not be alarmed! There are a number of small, cumulative items here that are designed to build skills and provide exposure to many of the kinds of assignments you will be asked to conquer in future history classes. Each of these will be explained in more detail over the course of the semester, but as a general rule the skittish student should know from the outset that these assignments are not longer than 2 pages each (with the exception of the annotated bibliography). The most substantive assignment will be an individual project developed in consultation with the instructor on any topic relating to the railroad between 1830 and 1945. You will be responsible for both a substantive, scholarly annotated bibliography as well as a brief presentation of your findings at the end of the semester. Also, please note that there is no final exam for this class!
COURSE SCHEDULE

Please note that this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

What is History?
M Jan 25 Course Introduction

W Jan 27 True Stories, Classicists, and the Renaissance
  • Arnold Chapters 1 + 2
  • Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War (excerpt on historical inquiry)

F Jan 29 “How It Really Was”...?
  • Arnold Chapters 3 + 4
  • Ranke, Introduction to the History of the Latin and Teutonic Nations (1824)
  • Ranke, “The State of Historical Research” from History of England (1868)

M Feb 1 Truth, truths, and the tools of dissent
  Note: read the Darnton chapter BEFORE you finish the Arnold
  • Darnton, “Workers Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre of the Rue Saint-Séverin”
  • Arnold Chapters 5 - 7

T Feb 2 Viewing of A Midwife’s Tale, 7-8:30 p.m., ARH 302
  NOTE: if you are unable to attend this viewing, Professor Cohn’s class will host a screening on Thursday, Jan 28 at 7:00 in ARH 224. Additionally, the DVD and video will be on reserve in the A/V center and Burling Listening Room, respectively.

W Feb 3 Discussion of A Midwife’s Tale
  Film review assignment handed out in class

F Feb 5 Visit to the Iowa Room/Special Collections
  Note: class meets downstairs in Burling Library

UNIT I
“Township 80 North, Range 16 West”: The Founding of Grinnell and the Railroad in Iowa

M Feb 8 Introductory lecture: Grinnell and the Railroad in Iowa
  Film review assignment due in class

W Feb 10 Telling of the Tale I
  • Henry M. Hamilton, A Historical Sketch: A Chapter in the Early History of Grinnell, Iowa (1892)

F Feb 12 Telling of the Tale II
  • Josiah B. Grinnell, Chaps. VI & VII from Men and Events of Forty Years: Autobiographical Reminiscences of an Active Career from 1850-1890 (1891)
  Thesis statement assignment I handed out in class
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment/Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| M Feb 15 | Selling the Railroad I  
• *Circular statement of the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company* (1854) |
| W Feb 17 | Selling the Railroad II  
• *The Central Railroad of Iowa ... value and security of its first mortgage* (1869) |
| F Feb 19 | Outsourcing Friday  
Thesis statement assignment I due in class |
| **UNIT II** | The Meaning and Experience of the Railroad in the Nineteenth Century: Schivelbusch |
| W Feb 24 | • Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey*, Chaps. VI - IX, pp. 89-149  
*Note: stop BEFORE “Excursus: The History of Shock”* |
Footnote assignment handed out in class |
| **UNIT III** | Railway Imperialism: The British in India |
| M Mar 1 | Introductory lecture: The British in India  
Footnote assignment due in class |
| W Mar 3 | • Dalhousie, Railway minute of 1853 (excerpts) |
| M Mar 8 | Railway Imperialism I  
| W Mar 10 | Railway Imperialism II  
• Ronald E. Robinson, “Introduction: Railway Imperialism” pp. 1-6 and  
| F Mar 12 | Outsourcing Friday |
UNIT IV
Chicago, 1894: The Pullman Strike

M Mar 15     Introductory lecture: The Pullman Strike
Initial Project Proposal due in class

W Mar 17     • Testimonial Transcripts before the U.S. Strike Commission 1894: Heathcoate, Rhodie, Brown, Carwardine, Pearson, Glover, Doty, Pullman, Wickes

• Eugene V. Debs, “How I Became a Socialist” in *The Comrade* (1902)
Thesis statement assignment II handed out in class

SPRING BREAK

M Apr 5     • Larry Peterson, “Photography and the Pullman Strike: Remolding Perceptions of Labor Conflict by New Visual Communication” in *The Pullman Strike and the Crisis of the 1890s: Essays on Labor and Politics*, pp. 87-129

Thesis statement assignment II due in class

F Apr 9     NO CLASS – I will be away at a conference

UNIT V
Paris, c. 1900: The Aesthetics of Mass Transit

M Apr 12     Introductory lecture: Hector Guimard and the *Metropolitain*

W Apr 14

F Apr 16

M Apr 19

W Apr 21

F Apr 23     Outsourcing Friday
Draft annotated bibliography due in class
UNIT VI
Final Destinations: The Use of the Railroad during the Holocaust

M Apr 26    Introductory lecture: Trains and the Final Solution
W Apr 28    
F Apr 30    
M May 3     
W May 5     
F May 7     Outsourcing Friday
M May 10    Group I Presentations
W May 12    Group II Presentations
F May 14    Group III Presentations

W May 19    **Final version of annotated bibliography due**
            11:00 a.m. in Mears #211