**HIST 201:**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF HISTORY**

Spring 2010

Professor: Alexis Wick

Days: M W F

Email: aw08@aub.edu.lb

Time: 9-9:50AM

Office: Nicely 208, x. 4282

Nicely 327

Office Hours: T R 10-11AM

**INTRODUCTION**

This course aims at introducing students to the practice of history. What does it mean to think historically? How do historians study the past? By what means does one write history? Students will not find here a rigorous methodology for the production of proper history or a general philosophy of correct historical knowledge. Rather, this course should be thought of as a collective workshop on techniques of historical creation. Hence the format of the syllabus, which espouses some basic steps of the historian’s craft. A primary objective of the course is to remove the daunting aura from history, in order to make students realize that it is within the grasp of everyone to write it, and perhaps even take pleasure in doing so. Emphasis will be placed therefore on reading, interpreting and, especially, writing skills.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA**

Students begin the course by writing an autobiography (5 pages), in which they reflect on and produce an account of their own past. This assignment is **due on March 1st**. These autobiographies will be augmented and modified as the course unfolds, in response to the readings and class discussions. A revised and expanded version of the autobiography (max. 15 pages) is due on the last meeting of the class, **May 28th**. This assignment is worth a total of 30% of the final grade.

Three in-class exams in the form of short writing exercises will be given. These combine for 20% of the final grade.

The final exam, consisting of broad essay questions on the primary themes of the course, will be worth 30% of the final grade.

Finally, because of the nature of this course, it is imperative for students to attend class assiduously and to come prepared for informed discussion. Attendance and participation will be worth 20% of the grade. It will be impossible to do well in this course without such a commitment.

**COURSE POLICY**

In line with the University principles and policies regarding academic honesty as outlined in the **Student Handbook**, any form of cheating or plagiarism will be regarded as a most serious offense and will be brought to the attention of the Faculty Disciplinary Committee. Rules and regulations governing class attendance and examinations are found in the **University Catalogue**.
INTRODUCTION

Feb 15-17-19: Week 1. What is History? A question mal posée


PART I – THEORY IN HISTORY

Feb 22-24: Week 2. History before the Disciplines


No class Feb 26th (Prophet’s Birthday)

Mar 1-3-5: Week 3. The Disciplining of History


Mar 8-10-12: Week 4. A Philosophy for History


Mar 15-17-19: Week 5. The Subjects of History


PART II – RESEARCH IN HISTORY

Mar 22-24-26: Week 6. The Problem of Modernity

Mar 29-31: Week 7. Varieties of Historiography


April 1st – April 5th: No class (Easter Holiday)

Apr 7-9: Week 8. Types of Sources


Samuel Moyn, “Personal Anecdote” for the list of “Top Young Historians” of George Mason’s History New Network, http://hnn.us/roundup/entries/32513.html

Apr 12-14-16: Week 9. The Archive


PART III – WRITING IN HISTORY

Apr 19-21-23: Week 10. Exegetical Reading


Apr 26-28-30: Week 11. The Incitement to (Historical) Discourse


May 3-5-7: Week 12. The Question of Narrative


May 10-12-14: Week 13. Apologia for Constraints


CONCLUSION


May 24-26-28: Week 15. Presentation of Student Projects