RESEARCH SEMINAR IN FRENCH STUDIES

Institute of French Studies, G46.3720
Department of History, G57.3720

Edward Berenson
Spring 2010
Thursdays 2-4:30
Edward.berenson@nyu.edu
88792
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30-12:30

This course has several purposes. The first is to read and think about archival research. The second is to hone your analytical writing skills. Another is to read some model works of history—books and articles at once well written, nicely structured, and intellectually rich. Yet another is to sample different genres of history writing and think about your interests in relation to them. The final and most important purpose is to write an 8-10 page research proposal, including a detailed outline, of the research paper you will be completing during fall semester 2010. You should begin thinking about possible topics early in the spring semester, consult with me about them, and have a good idea of what you want to write about by the spring break. The research paper itself will be due in week 10 of the second semester. You will then present it to the seminar, having read everyone else’s paper as well. The final step will be to revise your piece, taking into account the responses and feedback you will have received.

In addition to the research proposal, due at the end of spring semester 2010, you will write two 5-page analytical essays on the assigned readings. I will suggest some topics, but you may choose your own.

All assigned readings are either on reserve at Bobst, in the IFS Salle de Lecture, or on the course’s Blackboard site. If you’d like to buy any or all of the books, I’d suggest doing so online.

Topics and Readings

Jan 21. Introduction to the Course

Jan 28. Archives and Historical Research, I

Alain Corbin, The Life of an Unknown. The Rediscovered World of a Clog Maker in 19th Century France

Feb. 4. Archives and Historical Research, II
Arlette Farge, *Le gout de l'archive*
Carlo Ginzburg, *Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method*, chs. 1,5,7,8

Feb 11. Archives and Historical Research, III.

Michelle Pinto, “Working in the French Archives”
First review essay due


André Burguière, *The Annales School. An Intellectual History*

Feb 25. Historiography, II: Intellectual History (Stefanos Geroulanos)

Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna*
Dominique Lacapra, “Rethinking Intellectual History.”
Samuel Moyn, Selections

March 4. Historiography III: Social and Cultural History

William H. Sewell, Jr., *Logics of History*, chs. 1,4,5,8
Philippe Poirier, *L'histoire culturelle, un “tournant mondial” dans l'historiographie?*, ch. 4
Lionel Gossman, *Towards a Rational Historiography*

March 11. Second review essay due

March 18. Spring Break

March 25. Individual consultations on research proposals

April 1. Writing History, I. Writing Well

Stephen J. Pyne, *Voice and Vision: A Guide to Writing History and Other Serious Nonfiction*


Selected articles from *French Politics, Culture, and Society*

April 15. Writing History, III. Historians’ Autobiographies

Saul Friedlander, *When Memory Comes*
Ruth Harris, *Lourdes*, Preface
April 22. Writing Week: Research Proposal

April 29. Writing Week: Research Proposal

May 3. Research proposals due