

# Classic writings on the theory of history, 7,5 hp

Teacher: Margaret Hunt

Dates:

Thursday 02/04/2015 kl 13:15-16:00 Venue: TBA  
Thursday 09/04/2015 kl 13:15-16:00 Venue: TBA  
Thursday 16/04/2015 kl 13:15-16:00 Venue: TBA  
Thursday 23/04/2015 kl 13:15-16:00 Venue: TBA  
Thursday 07/05/2015 kl 13:15-16:00 Venue: TBA  
Thursday 21/05/2015 kl 13:15-16:00 Venue: TBA  
Thursday 28/05/2015 kl 13:15-16:00 Venue: TBA  
Thursday 04/06/2015 kl 13:15-16:00 Venue: TBA

(Seminars are ordinarily three hours long.)

Eng means campus Engelska parken, Uppsala universitet.

## Purpose

The course provides a broad introduction to modern historiography focusing on classic writings, most, though not all of them, written after 1950. The course puts them into context and illustrates their impact on later historical writing. The selection of the readings has been guided by the principle that it is better to read the original words of influential writers than to read large amounts of commentary on them. Since many of the works in question are very long (e.g., Marx's *Capital* runs to several thousand pages) in a great many cases we will be reading excerpts. Still, there can be up to 250 pages to read per week and it is important to take this opportunity to train yourself to get through a large amount of text and form an opinion about it.

## Teaching and Assessment

Seminar members are expected to read the assigned readings and actively participate in discussion. I would also like class members to take turns reporting on some of the ways the "Classic Writings" we are reading have been used by other historians. You should choose a week to do this. Other methods of assessment to be announced.

## Reading list

Note: The literature can be read in English or Swedish or any other language you like. If you can read them in their original language so much the better.

### **Meeting 1 (Thursday 2 April): Introduction: The Discipline of History and its Evolution in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century**

Marc Bloch, *The Historian's Craft* (Manchester UP, 1954 or later edition). 163 pages. (Recommended to buy)

William H. Sewell Jr., *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation* (Chicago UP 2005), Chapters 1-2, pp. 1-80. 80 pages (Recommended to buy)

Total number of pages for this week: 243.

### **Meeting 2 (Thursday 9 April): Understanding the Village in Past Times**

Otto Brunner, *Land and Lordship: Structures of Governance in Medieval Austria* (University of Pennsylvania

Press 1992), pp. 1-63, 90-94. 67 pages (please await distribution of pages as the book is currently out of stock and hard to find. It is available, and purchasable, in German, *Land und Herrschaft*)

A.V. Chayanov, *The Theory of Peasant Economy* (Wisconsin UP, 1986), pp. xi-xxiii, 1-28. 40 pages

Quentin Skinner, *Visions of Politics, Vol. I Regarding Method* (Cambridge UP 2002), Chapter 5, pp. 90-102; Chapter 6, pp. 103-127. 36 pages. (Recommended to buy)

Total number of pages for this week: 143.

**Meeting 3 (Thursday 16 April): Societies and Change**

Norbert Elias, *The Civilizing Process* (Blackwell, revised ed. 2000), pp. 283-409. 129 pages. (Recommended to buy)

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (Blackwell, 2001). Author's introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5 (skip chapter 4). 103 pages (recommended to buy)

Total number of pages for this week: 232.

**Meeting 4 (Thursday 23 April): Great Transformations**

Karl Marx, *Capital*, (available in several other languages including Swedish and the original German) Skim Chapter 1 and read chapter 24. 87 pages (stay tuned in case there is a change in the chapter assignments)

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation: The Economic and Political Origins of Our Time*. Or you may read it in Swedish: Karl Polanyi, *Den stora omdaningens : marknadsekonomins uppgång och fall* (Arkiv förlag/A-Z förlag, 2012). 300 pages (check with me as I will definitely be shortening the pages when my copy of the book arrives)(recommended to buy)

E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* (Penguin, 1980, originally published 1963), *Preface* [for the original 1963 edition], *Preface for 1980 edition*, (pages unclear in my copy but the two prefaces are right at the beginning and about 10 pages long in total), and *Part III, Chapter 16, "Class Consciousness, I: Radical Culture"* pp. 695-729. Circa 44 pages. (recommended to buy)

Total number of pages for this week: currently 431 but I will be shortening the pages.

**Meeting 5 (Thursday 7 May): Power Relations in Modern Society**

E.P. Thompson, *Time, Work-discipline and Industrial Capitalism, Past & Present* No. 38 (1967), pp. 56-97

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (Vintage, 1995), Parts I-III (but just skim pp. 135-194, which is Part III, Chapters 1-2, but do look at the pictures). Also available in Swedish: Michel Foucault, *Örvakning och straff: fängelsets födelse* (Arkiv Förlag 2004), Del. I-III. 220 pages.

Ranjit Guha, "The Prose of Counter-Insurgency," in *Culture Power History. A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory*, eds. Dirks, Eley & Ortner (Princeton UP, 1993), pp. 109-159. 50 pages

Roland Barthes, *Mythologies* (Farrar, Straus, Giroux 1972), Part II. Or you may read it in Swedish: Roland Barthes, *Mytologier*, (Arkiv 2007), Del II (I 1970 års utgåva av samma bok heter artikeln "Den moderna myten") 54 pages

Total number of pages for this week: 365.

**Meeting 6 (Thursday 21 May): The Weight of Culture**

Robert Darnton, "Workers Revolt. The Great Cat Massacre of the Rue Saint Séverin", in *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History* (New York 1983), pp. 79-104. Also available in Swedish: Robert Darnton, *Stora kattmassakern och andra kulturhistoriska bilder från fransk upplysningstid* (Ordfronts förlag 1987), 25 pages

Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre* (Harvard UP 1974). Also available in Swedish: Natalie Zemon Davis, *Martin Guerres återkomst* (första utgåva 1982; Stockholm 1985). 213 pages (Recommended to buy)

William H. Sewell Jr., *Logics of History* (Chicago UP 2005), pp. 175-196. 21 pages

Pierre Bourdieu, "Some Properties of Fields" in Bourdieu, *Sociology in Question* (Sage, 1993), pp. 72-77 (also available in Swedish as "Några egenskaper hos fälten" in *Texter om de intellektuella*, ed. Donald Broady (Brutus Östlings bokförlag Symposium 1992), 14 pages

Total number of pages for this week: 273.

**Meeting 7 (28 May): Gender Relations in History**

Lyndal Roper, *The Holy Household. Women and Morals in Reformation Augsburg* (Oxford 1989). Chapter 1, "The Domestication of the Reformation"; Chapter 3, "Prostitution and Moral Order"; Chapter 5, Discipline and Marital Disharmony"; Chapter 7, "The Holy Family". 145 pages

Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis" in *Gender and the Politics of History* (Columbia UP 1988 or revised ed. 1999), pp. 28-50. 22 pages

Judith Butler, "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire" in *Gender Trouble* (Routledge 1990 or any later edition) 46 pages

Total number of pages for this week: 216.

**Meeting 8 (4 June): For and Against "the Cultural Turn"**

Miguel A. Cabrera, "Linguistic approach or return to subjectivism? In search of an alternative to social history," *Social History*, Vol. 24/1 (1999), pp. 74-89. 15 pages

Margaret C. Jacob, "Science Studies after Social Construction: The Turn toward the Comparative and the Global" in *Beyond the Cultural Turn*, eds. Bonnell, Hunt and White (California UP, 1999). 26 pages

Caroline Bynum, "Why All the Fuss about the Body? A Medievalist's Perspective" in *Beyond the Cultural Turn* (eds. Bonnell, Hunt and White). 39 pages

William H. Sewell Jr., "Reconfiguring the 'Social' in Social Science" in *Logics of History*, pp. 318-372. 54 pages.

Total number of pages for this week: 134.

