

Georgia Institute of Technology
School of History, Technology, and Society
HTS 1001: Introduction to History, Technology, and Society
Prof. John L. Tone/218 D.M. Smith/404-894-8631
Office hours: mwf 10-11:30 and mw 1-2, by appointment at
www.advising.iac.gatech.edu.

Purpose of the Course

- Explore themes, techniques, and sources in history and sociology.
- Introduce students to HTS faculty and their interests.
- Develop writing, research, and speaking skills.
- Familiarize students with other relevant opportunities at Tech and in Atlanta.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Four 4-page papers: 40%
2. Presentations: 40%
3. Class Participation: 20%

Note: Many of the Friday classes are cancelled and replaced with field trips and attendance at meetings of Prometheus, the undergraduate history club at Georgia Tech.

Reading

Photocopied readings will be made available. At Engineer's bookstore you will find: Natalie Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*

Weekly Schedule

Unit 1. History and Myth (8/20 to 9/14)

-Research assignment: Find a myth and bust it

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| 8/20 | Introduction |
| 8/22 | Discussion: Hugh Trevor Roper, "The Invention of Tradition: The Highland Tradition of Scotland." |
| 8/24 | Discussion: Alan Spitzer, "Ronald Reagan's Bitburg Narrative." |
| 8/27 | Lecture: "For Want of a Nail: Big Results from Little Causes or Why Narrative Is Better Than Structural Analysis (Sometimes)." |
| 8/29 | Tutorial: Writing a College Paper (handouts on style, grammar) |
| 8/31 | Student Guest Lecture: Lori-Ann Davy |
| No class on 9/3, 5, 7. Research week. | |
| 9/10 | Guest Lecture: Dr. Jon Schneer |
| 9/12 | Presentations. |
| 9/14 | Presentations. |

Field Trip: Margaret Edson, Pulitzer Prize Winner, Avis G. Williams Library, August 28, 7 p.m., speaks on writing.

Unit 2. The Sociological Imagination (9/17 to 10/12)

-Research assignment: Conduct a survey and report findings.

9/17 Discussion: Michael Schwalbe, *The Sociologically Examined Life*, chs. tba.

Paper #1 (myth busting) due at beginning of class.

9/19 (Breakout groups to design survey)

9/24 (Surveys handed out)

9/26 Guest Lecture: Dr. Amy D'Unger

(Completed surveys returned)

10/1 Tutorial: Using an Archive (Jody Thompson, GT Archivist)

10/3 Discussion: Michael Tonry, "Racial Politics, Racial Disparities, and the War on Crime," and Darnell Hawkins, "Explaining the Black Homicide Rate."

10/8 Discussion: Crosson, *Tainted Truth*, ch. 4.

10/12 Survey conducted, results distributed.

Field Trip: Atlanta History Center, tba

Unit 3. Technology and Science (10/15 to 11/9)

-Research assignment: Artifact analysis.

10/15 Example of artifact analysis: Musket balls from Talavera

Paper #2 reaction paper to Tonry and Hawkins or Survey Data.

10/17 Guest Lecture: Dr. Gus Giebelhaus

Discussion: Robert L. Heilbroner, "Do Machines Make History?"

10/22 Tutorial: Internships and Careers; Guest: Adair Schwartz

10/24 Discussion: John Logsdon, *The Decision to Go to the Moon*, ch. 4.

10/29 Guest Lecture: Dr. John Krige

10/31 **Presentations.**

11/5 **Presentations.**

11/7 **Presentations.** Survey tabulation.

Field Trip: Carlos Museum, tba

Unit 4. Microhistory and other techniques (11/12 to 12/7)

-Research assignment: Self-directed.

11/12 Discussion: Natalie Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*

Paper #3 (artifact analysis) due at beginning of class

(Screening on 11/13 at 5 pm: *The Return of Martin Guerre*)

11/14 Discussion: Book and Film, *The Return of Martin Guerre*

11/19 Guest Lecture: Dr. Greg Nobles.

Reading: William Cronon, "The Trouble with Wilderness; or, Getting back to the Wrong Nature," from Cronon, ed., *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1995).

11/21 Guest Lecture: Dr. Lawrence Foster

11/26 Guest Lecture: Dr. Hanchao Lu

11/28 Guest tutorial: On-line research (Bruce Henson, Librarian)

12/3 **Presentations.**

12/5 **Presentations.**

Fourth paper (open topic) due on 12/10 by 2 p.m.

Note: Students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code.