

JO530/HI502

Drafts of History: Journalism and Revisionism

Prof. Bruce Schulman and Chris Daly

Boston University

Spring 2013

Course description:

Journalism has been called “the first rough draft of history.” How rough? We consider several episodes from U.S. history and examine how the first drafts written by journalists compare to subsequent drafts written by historians. In so doing, we analyze not only how new evidence and chronological distance alter understanding of important events, but also the ways that different eras ask different questions about the past, interrogate different sources, and appeal to different audiences.

Educational goals:

Students will first encounter the past through contact with primary materials in the form of journalism, using newspapers, magazines, television, books, moving images, and other historical materials. Students will also discover how historians have used new material and new conceptual frameworks to raise new questions about the past and to revise our understanding of events. Students will develop a critical attitude toward source materials, both primary and secondary. Sources include texts, graphics, and video. Through the presentation of “methods labs,” students will gain experience in the scholarly uses of historical print and visual materials, including 18th C newspapers and 20th C films.

Required Readings:

The Elements of Journalism (2007), by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosensteil.

Hiroshima (1946) by John Hersey.

The Whites of Their Eyes (2010), by Jill Lepore.

Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings (1998), by Annette Gordon-Reed.

The Liberals' Moment, by Bruce Miroff, (2009).

Thomas Sugrue, *Not Even Past* (2010)

[Students will also be required to read and watch substantial amounts of other material, both journalistic and historical, which will be posted on the course Blackboard site.]

Suggested Readings:

Covering America, Chris Daly.

That Noble Dream, Peter Novick. Excerpts available on course Blackboard site.

Contacts:

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 Office Hours: Tues, Thurs, 11-3; Wed 10-12.

Prof. Schulman can be reached by email: bjschulm@bu.edu
 Office: 226 Bay State Road, Room 407.
 Office Hours: Tues, 10-12 and Weds, 2:30-3:30.

Grading:

Your grade for the term will depend on the following considerations:

- 40% -- Final paper (Due May 2, 2013)
- 30% -- Short papers (Due February 21, 2013 and March 28, 2013)
- 10% -- In-class presentation
- 20% -- Class participation

Class participation: Preparation for and participation in class discussion constitute an important part of the course. The reading list is extensive, and students are expected to complete the readings in a timely manner and be prepared to discuss them. Class participation will account for 20 percent of your final grade in the course.

Attendance:

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. (It is also educational.) If you are unable to attend class, you must contact one of the professors, in advance. Three or more unexcused absences may result in failure.

Final Paper: In consultation with the instructors, you will design, research and complete a substantial paper on a topic of your own devising. The final paper should represent an article-length essay of approximately 25 pages based on original research. You must document it with endnotes or footnotes and provide a complete bibliography. The essay is due on Thursday, May 2 and will constitute 30% of your final grade in the course.

Prospectus and Bibliography: Developing a research proposal and a preliminary bibliography constitute crucial steps in completing a substantial research paper. Accordingly, by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 12, each student will turn in a brief (1-2 page) prospectus describing the topic and outlining its significance. At the same time, students will submit a preliminary bibliography for their final paper.

Short Papers: In class on February 21, students will turn in a brief (1500-2000 word) essay, offering a critical assessment of the assigned readings for one of the subjects covered in the first six weeks of the course. A second short paper along the same lines will be due on March 28. Alternatively, students may choose to conduct a "site visit" to a historic location in the Boston area. The instructors will hand out a detailed description of your options for the assignment later in the semester. Together the two papers will account for 30% of your final grade.

Presentation: Every student, working in teams of two, is required to develop and deliver one 10-minute pair presentation that will explore a significant example of the process of drafting and re-drafting accounts of crucial events by journalists and historians. Students can choose subjects from a list provided by the instructors or develop their own topics subject to approval by the instructors. Successful presentations will raise questions for the class to discuss, refer to specific texts, and should include an informal bibliography of sources used. Each student pair *must* email a handout (not more than one page) to the instructors by 6 p.m. the day before the presentation is scheduled. Students should also note that staying within the 10-minute timeframe is part of the assignment. The presentation will account for 10% of your final grade in the course.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism -- the presentation of another's work as your own, even by mistake -- is an abomination and will not be tolerated. In journalism, truth and candor are the bedrock of our work. In history, original analysis and proper use of and acknowledgement of sources are critical. Plagiarism will result in failing this course and possible further penalties. Never do it, and never tolerate it in others. If you are in doubt, consult a professor.

Note also that the Boston University Code of Academic Conduct defines plagiarism as "any attempts by a student to represent the work or another as his or her own." Plagiarism is subject to serious sanctions, including reprimand, suspension, and expulsion. For a detailed description of Boston University's rules, consult the code of conduct at www.cs.bu.edu/students/conduct.html

Instructors:

Chris Daly is a veteran journalist with experience in wire services, newspapers, magazines, books and on-line. A Harvard graduate, he spent 10 years at The Associated Press. From 1989 to 1997, he covered New England for *The Washington Post*. He holds a master's degree in history from the University of North Carolina, where he was a co-author of *Like a Family*, a social history of the South's industrialization. His writing has appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Parents*, *New England Monthly*, *Boston*, *American Prospect* and other magazines. He contributes free-lance articles and essays to newspapers and magazines, and he is writing a book on the history of U.S. journalism, titled *Covering America*. He blogs at www.journalismprofessor.com.

Bruce Schulman is the William E. Huntington Professor and Chair of the History Department at Boston University. He is the author of three books: *From Cotton Belt to Sunbelt* (1991); *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism* (1994); and *The Seventies* (2001). The *New York Times* named *The Seventies* one of its Notable Books of the Year for 2001. An anthology of essays, co-edited with Julian Zelizer, entitled *Rightward Bound: Making America Conservative in the 1970s*, was published 2008, and another, *The Constitution and Public Policy*, in 2009. In January 2006, the American Historical Association conferred on him the Nancy Lyman Roelker Award for graduate mentorship. In December 2007 he was named the United Methodist Scholar/Teacher of the Year. A frequent contributor to newspapers and magazines, Schulman is currently at work on a volume for the Oxford History of the United States covering the years 1896-1929.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1--Introduction to the Course

January 17—The Preliminaries

ASSIGNED READING:

- Bill Kovach and Tom Rosensteil, *Elements of Journalism*, chap 4.
- Christopher Daly, *Covering America*, Ch. 1.
- Charles Beard, "Written History as an Act of Faith," (1933).
- Samuel Eliot Morison, *History as a Literary Art: An Appeal to Young Historians* \ (1948), excerpt.
- James McPherson, "Revisionist Historians," *Perspectives* (Sept. 2003).
- Staughton Lynd and Carl Mirra, "I Am A Revisionist Historian," HNN (13 March 2006).

**WEEK 2-- Journalism as the first draft: methods and standards
History as the later drafts: revisionism.**

January 22 **Methods Lab 1**--Reading Historical Newspapers

January 24 Journalism and Revisionism: Discussion and Debate

ASSIGNED READING

- Contemporary journalism on Colonial Boston and the Boston Tea Party
- Daly, *Covering America*, chapter 2.
- Benjamin Labaree, *The Boston Tea Party* (1964), excerpts
- Alfred Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party* (1999), excerpts
- Jill Lepore, *The Whites of Their Eyes*, (2010), pp. 1-98.

WEEK 3--The Boston Tea Party and Its Legacies

January 29 Tea Party Journalism and Nature of the Colonial Press

January 31 The Tea Party In History

ASSIGNED READING:

- Jill Lepore, *The Whites of Their Eyes*, pp. 98-167
- Annette Gordon-Reed, *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings* (1998), pp. vii-77.

WEEK 4--Are Historians Always Right? The Case of Jefferson and Hemmings

February 5 Why We Care About Jefferson: The Founders in History and Memory

February 7 Jefferson Through the Years--Accounts from Callender to Gordon-Reed

ASSIGNED READING:

- James Callender on Jefferson/Hemings. *Richmond Recorder*, 1802.
- Dumas Malone, *Jefferson the Virginian* (1967), excerpt.
- Fawn Brodie, *Thomas Jefferson: An Intimate History* (1974), excerpt.
- Joseph Ellis, *American Sphinx* (1998), excerpt.
- Annette Gordon-Reed, *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings* (1998), 78-235.
- Paul Finkelman, "The Monster of Monticello," *NYTimes*, Nov. 30, 2012.
<http://nyti.ms/VbnPzq>

ASSIGNED LISTENING:

"Mulberry Row," by Corey Harris and Henry Butler. <http://bit.ly/UDk2u8>

WEEK 5-- War as Spectacle: The Spanish-American War

February 12 The War of 1898 in Journalism and History

February 14 The Spectacle of War (Films, Images, Bonnie Miller)

ASSIGNED READING:

- Richard Harding Davis's reports for Hearst.
- Coverage from the *Journal*, the *World*, and the *Herald*, the *Times*.
- W. Joseph Campbell, "I'll Furnish the War," chap 1, *Getting it Wrong*.
- Thomas Bailey, *Diplomatic History of the American People* (1940), excerpt.
- Walter LaFeber, *The New Empire* (1963), excerpts.
- Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood* (1998), excerpt.
- Louis A. Perez, *The War of 1898* (1998), excerpt.
- Bonnie Miller, *From Liberation to Conquest*, excerpts

WEEK 6--War as a Secret: Americans and the Russian Revolution

February 19 Americans and the Russian Revolutions 1 (+ 2 presentations)

February 21 Americans and the Russian Revolution 2 (+1 presentation)

ASSIGNED READING:

- Walter Lippmann and Charles Merz, "A Test of the News,"
The New Republic, Aug. 4, 1920.
- Phillip Knightley, *The First Casualty* (3rd ed.), chap 7,
"The Remedy for Bolshevism is Bullets"
- John Reed, *Ten Days that Shook the World* (1922), excerpts.
- Reds* (1981)
- Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (2001), excerpts.

WEEK 7-- Are Journalists Always Wrong?

February 26 Hersey's *Hiroshima* and Its Impact

February 28 Are Journalists Always Wrong?

ASSIGNED READING:

--John Hersey, *Hiroshima* (1946)

--Mary Corey, *The World Through a Monocle* (1999), ch. 2.

--"Atom Bomb Edition Out / The New Yorker Devotes Current Issue to Blast at Hiroshima.," *New York Times*, 29 Aug. 1946, p. 25, col. 2.

--Ruth Benedict, "The Past and the Future" (book review),

Nation, 7 Dec. 1946, pp. 656- 657.

--Bruce Bliven, "Hiroshima," *The New Republic*, 9 Sept. 1946, pp. 300- 301.

--Paul Boyer, *By the Bomb's Early Light*, (1985), excerpts.

--Robert Lifton and Greg Mitchell, *Hiroshima in America* (1995), excerpt.

WEEK 8--Women's Liberation

March 5 Miss America 1968 and "Women's Lib": Journalism, History, Mythology

March 7 Modern Feminism in Journalism and History

ASSIGNED READINGS:

--Art Buchwald's column that prompted the "bra-burner" myth. (Sept. 12, 1968)

--W. Joseph Campbell, "Bra Burning at Atlantic City," chap 6, *Getting it Wrong*.

--*Ms.* magazine, first edition.

--Sara Evans, *Born For Liberty* (1989), pp. 263-307.

--Susan Douglas, *Where The Girls Are* (1994), pp, 139-92.

--Nancy MacLean, *The American Women's Movement* (2009), excerpts.

--Robin Morgan. "Women Disrupt The Miss America Pageant" and three articles on WITCH, *Rat* (1968), reprinted in Robin Morgan, *Going Too Far*, pp. 57-81.

--Excerpt from PBS documentary on Miss America

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 9--Watergate, Part I

March 19 Watergate: The Journalism (and the Journalists)

March 21 **Methods Lab 2**: Moving Images (with Prof. Deborah Jaramillo)

ASSIGNED READINGS:

--Original reports from *Washington Post*, *NYTimes*, *CBS*, et al.

--Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward *All the President's Men* (1974). Excerpt.

--Stanley Kutler, *The Wars of Watergate* (1992), excerpts.

--W. Joseph Campbell, "It's All about the Media: Watergate's Heroic-Journalist Myth," chap 7, *Getting it Wrong*.

WEEK 10--Watergate, Part II

March 26 Watergate: The Scandal in History and Memory

March 28 Watergate and Film

ASSIGNED READINGS/VIEWING:

Michael Schudson, *Watergate in American Memory* (1993), Excerpt.

Chris Daly and Bruce Schulman, excerpts on Watergate

View one (or more) of the following films: *All the President's Men* (1974), *Born Again* (1978), *Nixon* (1995), *Dick* (1999), *Frost/Nixon* (2008),

WEEK 11--The Election of 1972 and the Transformation of American Public Life

April 2 Election 1972: The Journalism (and the Journalists)

April 4 Election 1972: The History

ASSIGNED READINGS:

--Timothy Crouse, *The Boys on the Bus* (1974), excerpts.

--Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail, 1972* (1973), excerpts.

--Coverage from *NY Times*, *Washington Post*.

--Theodore H. White, *The Making of the President, 1972* (1973), excerpts.

--Peter Carroll, *It Seemed Like Nothing Happened*, (1982), Chap. 5.

--Bruce Miroff, *The Liberals' Moment* (2009), pp. 1-246.

--Rick Perlstein, *Nixonland* (2008), excerpts.

WEEK 12-Transitions

April 9 McGovern and Contemporary American Politics
 April 11 No Seminar--Individual Meetings on the Final Papers

ASSIGNED READINGS:

--Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail, 1972* (1973), excerpts.
 --Miroff, *The Liberals' Moment* (2009), pp. 247-307.
 --George McGovern, "American Politics: A Personal View," Address at the Oxford Union, January 21, 1973.
 --John Judis and Ruy Teixeira, *The Emerging Democratic Majority* (2004), excerpts.
 --Bruce Schulman, "McGovern: Forging a Modern Political Party," *Reuters*, Oct 25, 2012

WEEK 13-Presentations

April 16 Presentations (4)
 April 18—**NO CLASS: MONDAY SCHEDULE ON THURSDAY**

ASSIGNED READINGS:

Thomas Sugrue, *Not Even Past* (2010), pp. 1-91.
 Journalism on Obama and Race in America

WEEK 14-Obama's America

April 23 Covering Obama's America
 April 25 Historicizing Obama's America

ASSIGNED READINGS:

James Kloppenberg, *Reading Obama* (2010), excerpts
 Thomas Sugrue, *Not Even Past* (2010), pp. 92-139.
 David Mariniss, *The Story* (2012), excerpts.

WEEK 15-Conclusions

April 30 Presentations (4)
 May 2 Conclusions