**History 5: The History of the Present**

Fall 2016 Professor Alice O’Connor, MW 2:00-3:15 Girvetz 1004

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Office Hours: MW 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

**Course Website**: For all sorts of **vital information** related to this course go to <https://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/> and login using your ucsb net id.

**History 5** brings historical analysis and understanding to some of the major events, trends, issues, and dilemmas of the early 21st century. It shows students what it means to think historically about the contemporary world, and introduces them to the approaches, methods, and conceptual tools historians use to make sense of the past and the present. Each Monday will feature a lecture by Professor O’Connor or a guest from the History Department bringing insights from her or his area of expertise to a contemporary issue or question. On Wednesdays, we will draw out the core themes and historical concepts from the lecture and assigned readings. In discussion sections you will integrate readings, lectures and other assignments in exchange with your TA and peers. We have organized the sequence of lectures and readings to highlight developments that preoccupy or otherwise “define” our times: 9/11 and the global “War on Terror”; the revolutions transforming the Arab world; the resurgence of nationalism in Europe; the madness of American presidential politics and election 2016; historical agency in environmental change; and ongoing struggles over human rights and racial and economic justice. We will also be paying close attention to politics close to home, in assignments that engage YOU as historical experts on this November’s vote on self-governance in Isla Vista!

**Course Requirements:** Regular attendance at ALL lectures and discussion sections is a MUST. Both will cover material not included in the readings, and for which you will be responsible on midterm and final exams.

**Readings:** Weekly required readings have been compiled in the History 5 Reader, available at Associated Students (UCEN), and on reserve in the library.

**Assignments:** You will complete three short (1-3 pp.) writing assignments and one 5-6 page paper (see schedule for due dates). You will also be required to attend a library workshop outside regular course/section times. Specifics about these assignments will be provided on the course website and in section.

**N.B. A couple of friendly warnings: Any registered student** who does not attend section or contact the T.A. during the first week of classes or who misses the first two weeks of section will automatically be dropped from the course.

Plagiarism involves using the words or analysis of a source (including the internet!) without full citation. Any student caught cheating in any fashion will fail the course, and face disciplinary action from the university. For more on university policy, see <http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/>.

**Exams:** You will show us what you’re learning on an in-class midterm (**Oct. 26)** and a three-hour final (**Dec. 5, 4:00-7:00pm**). Both will be essay/brief identification format. Make-up exams must be arranged with the approval of your T.A. Students with disabilities may request academic accommodations for exams online through the UCSB **Disabled Students Program** at <http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu/>. Please make arrangements **early** in the quarter.

Your grade will be based on the midterm (20%); section (20% including participation, and three short written assignments); the 5-6 page paper (25%), and final (35%).

Grading will be done by your T.A., based on standards determined in consultation with the instructor. Remember, you CANNOT pass this course unless you complete ALL of the above requirements—midterm, paper, section, final.

**Schedule**

Week One

Sept. 26 Course Introduction

Sept. 28 9/11: A “Defining” Moment?

Week Two

Oct. 3 Prof. Salim Yaqub: The Enduring Impact of the U.S. Invasion of Iraq

Oct. 5 Taking Responsibility: War and the Myth of Historical Inevitability

# Week Three

Oct. 10 Prof. Sherene Seikaly, On Borders and Revolutions: The Changing Arab World

Oct. 12 Place, Perspective, and the Power of (Contested) Narratives

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE Oct. 10th in lecture\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

# Week Four

Oct. 17 Prof. Erika Rappaport, From Brexit to the Burkini: Nationalism and Xenophobia in Modern Europe

Oct. 19 Learning from the Past: National Identity and the Politics of Fear

Week Five

Oct. 24 The World Turned Upside Down: “Populist” Resurgence in 2016

Oct. 26 **MIDTERM** (Blue books required)

Week Six

Oct. 31 Prof. John Majewski, Hamilton! The Musical as History

Nov. 2 Historical Re-imaginings and the Search for a “Useable” Past

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE OCT. 31st in lecture\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

# Week Seven

Nov. 7 Women, Political Power, and the “Historic” Election of 2016

Nov. 9 On “Breaking” with the Past

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE Nov. 7th in lecture\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

# Week Eight

Nov. 14 Prof. Sharon Farmer, Environmental Management in Medieval History

Nov. 16 Historical and Human Agency in Global Climate Change

Week Nine

Nov. 21 History Making Change: Same Sex Marriage and Transgender Rights

Nov. 23 No Class (Thanksgiving break)

**\*\*\*\*\*\*PAPER DUE November 21st in class\*\*\*\*\*\***

# Week Ten

Nov. 28 In Ferguson’s Wake: Black Lives Matter and the Case for Reparations

Nov. 30 Racial Justice as Historical Reckoning

**Final Exam: Monday, December 5, 4:00-7:00 p.m.**