

(graduate seminar)

Into the Archives: Methods of Archival Research and Writing

Professor: Dr. Amanda L. Scott • **Office:** Sampson 332
e-mail: scotta@usna.edu • **Phone** • 410-293-6260 • **Office Hours:** by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the production, consumption, control, and study of archives and archival material. We treat archives both physically and figuratively, exploring the ways in which the concept has changed or has shaped historical research, now and in the past. Most importantly, we delve into how deep archival research studies are conceptualized and executed: in this way, some of the sources do not appear to explicitly concern archives, but our goal is to understand how a deep appreciation and use of archival material shapes professional historical research and writing. We examine major trends in archival studies, classic works, and methodologies of approaching wide, fragmented, and/or disparate source collections. Finally, we discuss the ethics of archival preservation and personal privacy. Students will write a final paper that evaluates a methodology by drawing together primary source materials with relevant secondary literature (alternately, advanced graduate students nearing their qualifying exams may write a CLIR-Mellon fellowship proposal packet for a Dissertation Research in Original Sources).

Assessment

- **Participation** (25%) – *including attendance and participation in class discussion. Students will also be required to lead discussion twice throughout the semester.*
- **Book Reviews** (35%) – *a book review of each week's principle reading, due by the beginning of class.*
- **Final Paper** (40%) – *on a topic chosen in consultation with the professor.*

Academic Integrity

Students are required to abide by the University's policies on academic integrity.

Cheating and plagiarism are serious, and they rarely go uncaught. It's not worth it to risk your academic and professional careers, so don't even think about trying it. If you have any questions about how to properly use sources and cite references, I will be more than happy to help you. In addition, one of the class periods will be devoted to citing and writing academic papers.

Changes to the Syllabus

The professor reserves the right to make alterations to the syllabus throughout the semester. Students will be given ample notification should any changes be made.

Course Calendar

Week 1

Introductions

(professor will lead discussion today)

Arlette Farge, *The Allure of the Archives*.

Martha Howell, *From Reliable Sources: An Introduction to Historical Methods*.

Week 2

The Archival Turn

Carolyn Steedman, *Dust: The Archive and Cultural History*.

Shannon McSheffrey, "Detective Fiction in the Archives: Court Records and the Use of Law in Late Medieval England," in *History Workshop Journal* 65 (Spring 2008): 65-78.

Skim the articles in *European History Quarterly's* special issue, *Archival Transformations in Early Modern Europe* 46, n. 3 (July 2016).

Week 3

The Archive as a Fiction and a Reality

Past & Present special supplement *The Social History of the Archive: Record-Keeping in Early Modern Europe* (2016) (Introduction, plus read at least two articles from each section).

Week 4

What Happened When Historians Discovered the Computer

David Herlihy and Christiane Klapisch-Zuber, *Tuscans and their Families*.

Julius Kirshner and Anthony Molho, "The Dowry Fund and the Marriage Market in Early Quattrocento Florence," *The Journal of Modern History* 50, n. 3 (Sep., 1978): 403-438.

Jaime Contreras and Gustav Henningsen, "Forty-four thousand cases of the Spanish Inquisition (1540-1700): Analysis of a historical data bank," in Gustav Henningsen and John Tedeschi, *The Inquisition in Early Modern Europe: Studies on Sources and Methods*.

Week 5

Bias and Production: Interrogation and Record Keeping

Mark Gregory Pegg, *The Corruption of Angels: The Great Inquisition of 1245-1246*.

Peter Biller, "The Cathars of Languedoc and Written Materials," in *Heresy and Literacy, 1000-1530*.

Deborah Shulevitz, "Historiography of Heresy: The debate over 'Catharism' in medieval Languedoc," *History Compass* 17, n.1 (Jan. 2019): e12531.

Carlo Ginzburg, "The Inquisitor as Anthropologist," in *Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method*, ed. Carlo Ginzburg.

Week 6

The Archival Habit: Working in Church Archives

Kathryn Burns, *Colonial Habits: Convents and the Spiritual Economy of Peru*.

Abigail Dyer, "Seduction by Promise of Marriage: Law, Sex, and Culture in Seventeenth-Century Spain," *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (Summer 2003): 439-455.

Celeste I. McNamara, "Challenges to Episcopal Reform in Padua," in *Episcopal Reform and Politics in Early Modern Europe*, ed. By Jennifer Mara de Silva.

Week 7

Putting it to the Question: Using Surveys and Memorials

William A. Christian Jr., *Local Religion in Sixteenth-Century Spain*.

Duccio Balestracci, *The Renaissance of the Fields: Family Memoirs of a Fifteenth-Century Tuscan Peasant*.

Week 8

SPRING BREAK – no class

Week 9

Legal Records, I: Fragments and Construction of Narratives

Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*

Chapters from Natalie Zemon Davis, *Fiction in the Archive: Pardon Tellers and their Tales in Sixteenth-Century France*.

Robert Finlay and Natalie Zemon Davis, "AHR Forum: The Return of Martin Guerre" *American Historical Review* 93, n. 3 (June 1989): 553-603.

Week 10

Legal Records, II: The Good, the Bad, and the Microhistory

All read:

Gene Brucker, *Giovanni and Lusanna: Love and Marriage in Renaissance Florence*

Thomas Kuehn, "Reading Microhistory: The Example of Giovanni and Lusanna," *The Journal of Modern History* 61:3 (1989): 512-534.

Choose one of the following:

* Thomas Cohen, *Love and Death in Renaissance Italy*.

* Craig Monson, *Habitual Offenders: A True Tale of Nuns, Prostitutes, and Murderers in Seventeenth-Century Italy*.

Week 11

Notaries, Testaments, and "Everyday" Life

All read:

Amanda L. Scott, “‘Nothing more certain than death’: Seroras and their Communities through their Testaments,” in *The Basque Seroras: Local Religion, Gender, and Power in Northern Iberia, 1550-1800* (I will email you a pdf).

Roisin Cossar and Shonna Wray Kelly, “Wills as Primary Sources,” in *Understanding Medieval Primary Sources: Using Historical Sources to Discover Medieval Europe*, ed. Joel Rosenthal (Routledge, 2018).

Choose one of the following:

* Richard Emory, *The Jews of Perpignan in the Thirteenth Century*

* Roisin Cossar, *Clerical Households in Late Medieval Italy*.

* Katherine L. French, *The People of the Parish: Community Life in a Late Medieval English Diocese*.

Week 12

Science, Politics, and Archiving in Early Modern Europe

Read either set:

* Michael Hunter, *Archives of the Scientific Revolution: The Formation and Exchange of Ideas in Seventeenth-Century Europe*.

* Nicholas Popper, “Archives and the Boundaries of Early Modern Science,” *Isis* 107 n.1 (2016): 86-94.

OR

* Randolph Head, *Making Archives in Early Modern Europe: Proof, Information and Political Record-keeping, 1400–1700* (forthcoming July 2019).

* Fabien Montcher, “The Portable Archives of the Westphalian Negotiations: From Archival Arsenals to Archival Absolutism (France, Portugal, and Spain),” in *The Journal of Early Modern History* 22 (2018): 348-370.

RECOMMENDED:

Articles from the special issue “Archival Knowledge Cultures in Europe, 1400-1900,” in *Archival Science* (2010).

Week 13

Power, Paper, and Colonial Archives, I

Fabien Montcher, “Archives and Empire: Scholarly Archival Practices, Royal Historiographers and Historical Writing across the Iberian Empire (Late 16th and Early 17th Century),” in *Storia della Storiografia* 68.2 (2015): 21-36.

Choose one of the following:

* Kathryn Burns, *Into the Archive: Writing and Power in Colonial Peru*.

* Sylvia Sellers-García, *Distance and Documents in the Spanish Empire’s Periphery*.

Week 14

Power, Paper, and Colonial Archives, II

Choose one of the following:

* Bhavani Raman, *Document Raj: Writing and Scribes in Colonial South India*.

* Miles Ogborn, *Indian Ink: Script and Print in the Making of the English East India Company*.

Week 15

Pushing the Archive: Slavery and “Lost” Voices

Marissa Fuentes, *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive*.

Week 16

Archives and Memory

Kirsten Weld, *Paper Cadavers: The Archives of Dictatorship in Guatemala*.

Chapters from Richard Cox and David Wallace, eds., *Archives and the Public Good: Accountability and Records in Modern Society*.

Final papers due: check final exam schedule for dates