

I. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES:

- a. Your bibliography will be submitted via www.turnitin.com under the course HST 300 Fall 2009 – The course ID is 2999923 and the password for the course is “lavender”.
- b. The deadline is 11:59:00 pm on 12-08-09; if you miss that deadline, you may submit your bibliography at the same site under “Late submissions,” but your grade will be adjusted downward accordingly.
- c. Please be sure that your bibliography has your name on it.

II. FINAL EXAMINATIONS:

- a. All papers will be typed and double-spaced.
- b. Papers will be submitted via www.turnitin.com under the course HST 300 Fall 2009 – The course ID is 2999923 and the password for the course is “lavender”
- c. You will answer the two questions listed below. Each answer will be 400-500 words long. This means you will need to be succinct and avoid padding; you should make specific references to the readings to support your argument.
- d. You will submit both of your answers as one file, making sure that your name appears at the top of the first page.
- e. Due Date: 11:59:00 pm 12-15-2009; as above, there is a dropbox for late submissions after that date, with similar penalties.

FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS:

I: MODERNIST AND POSTMODERNIST HISTORIOGRAPHY

Background: Gramsci and Foucault focus on the ways that power is made and employed in society (Gramsci’s hegemony, Foucault’s discourse). Benjamin, Geertz, and Said all address the issue of the viewpoint of the historian in the writing of history: Benjamin argues for a re-evaluation of the role that the reader plays in making the historian’s meaning; Geertz emphasizes the ability of the historian to describe what he or she sees accurately (or “thickly”); and Said focuses on the role that ideas already-held (such as Orientalism) play in shaping what the historian can see in the first place.

The Question: Starting from these points of view, and drawing on the readings from at least two of the above named writers, discuss the challenge for the historian working now, in the postmodern moment (these challenges may include the contingency of proof, and the impossibility of escaping completely from one’s worldview). Discuss as well the promises of the moment (such as the expansion of the archive to include the world, and the possibility of telling stories not yet told). How can a historian today tell a story with some certainty? In the end, is more lost or gained by applying postmodernist historiographical perspectives to history?

II: APPLYING POSTMODERNIST HISTORIOGRAPHY

How does Lavender’s book chapter, “Is She Not a Man?” from *Scientists and Storytellers: Feminist Anthropology and the Construction of the American Southwest* (2006) illustrate the historiographical influence of postmodernism, especially with regard to the concepts of discourse, social construction, thick description, and contingency?