

HIS 601

Research Seminar: Sonic & Visual History

Professor Eric Zolov

W, 3:30 pm - 6:20 pm

This research seminar explores the interconnected realms of sound and visual history. We will spend the first part of the course exploring the vibrant, interdisciplinary field of Sound Studies, whose influence has recently begun to spill over into History. How can sound be interrogated as historical text? How can historians *find* sound (methodologically), *interpret* history through sound (epistemologically), and integrate sound texts and soundscapes into our analysis of the past? Next, we will shift to the field of Visual Studies. Here we will focus in particular on certain modern genres of visual culture, such as photography, posters, and cartoons, yet with an eye toward linking the interpretative lens of visual culture with that of sonic culture. We will read and discuss various foundational texts for sound and visual studies, as well as selected chapters, articles, and other readings that demonstrate the important dialogue transpiring between historians and scholars of Sound and Visual Studies. These discussions will lay the foundation for students to develop a research topic of their choosing, with the goal of a final paper suitable for scholarly publication in an appropriate journal. The latter third of the course will thus focus on research and writing strategies, presentations of rough drafts, and peer review. This course is open to doctoral students working on any topic in any world area, time period, or affiliated field with History. Prerequisite: Enrollment in History PhD program (other students require permission of Instructor).