DHP H205: THE HISTORIAN’S ART AND CURRENT AFFAIRS- Sulmaan Khan

Course Description:

We all use history, whether consciously or unconsciously, to understand the present and make decisions about the future. But we misuse it all too often and to our peril. Through a series of case studies, this course aims to give students the historical powers they need as they go out into the world: empathy, detachment, and relentless scepticism.

Assignments:

Three four page papers and one take-home final exam.

Required Books:

Ernest May and Richard Neustadt, *Thinking in Time*.
Barbara Tuchman, *The Guns of August*.
Rudyard Kipling, *Kim*.
M.E. Sarotte, *1989*.
Roberta Wohlstetter, *Pearl Harbor: Warning and Decision*.
Caroline Fraser, *Rewilding the World*.

Additional readings available on Trunk.

We hit the ground running, so come to the first class having read all of Tuchman, *The Guns of August*.

Electronics Policy

The use of laptops or other electronic devices is not permitted in this class.

Sessions:

1) The Origins of World War I. Readings: Tuchman, *The Guns of August*

2) The Cuban Missile Crisis. Readings: May and Neustadt, xi-16, Kennedy Tapes, excerpts


4) Appeasement. Readings: Chamberlain, Churchill, and all.

6) Korea. Readings: May and Neustadt, 34-48, Truman, excerpts

7) Vietnam. Readings: May and Neustadt, 75-90, 157-171, Halberstam, excerpts

8) The Many Endings of the Cold War. Readings: Cambridge History of The Cold War, excerpts. **First paper due.**


12) Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. Readings TBA.


15) Placing Japan: The Okinawa Base and More. FT coverage; Yamada.


17) Cold War and World Order. Readings TBA.


19) Korematsu; The Muslim Ban. Readings TBA.

20) Impeachment. Readings TBA.
21) *The Environment as a Security Problem*. Readings: Brook, excerpts, Parker, excerpts; additional readings TBA.

22) *The Environment as a Security Problem II*. Fraser, *Rewilding the World*.


26) *Thinking like a Historian*. Readings: May and Neustadt; Howard. **Final exam due.**