

Making Sense of 1989

A National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar
George Mason University and the Center for History and New Media
July 21 – August 2, 2008

Co-Directors

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Overview:

This seminar is designed for high school history teachers who want to deepen their understanding of the momentous events of 1989 in Eastern Europe and China, including the collapse of the communist regimes in Europe, the failure of the democracy movement on Tiananmen Square, and the subsequent end of the Cold War. The seminar itself will blend sessions on historical content, conducted by leading experts in the field, with a focus on historical thinking and how it does and does not happen in our classrooms (and why). In addition to learning a great deal about 1989 and its aftermath, participants in the seminar will create Primary Source Activities that they can take home, use in their classrooms, share with colleagues and potentially publish on the website *Making the History of 1989: Sources and Narratives on the Fall of Communism* (<http://chnm.gmu.edu/1989>).

In addition to the co-directors, the faculty for this seminar include the award-winning documentary historian and filmmaker Carma Hinton, Peter Stearns, Mason Provost and the author of more than 70 books in European and World history, and Gale Stokes, author a seminal book on 1989—*The Walls Came Tumbling Down*. Our lead teacher, Kurt Waters, is the chair of social studies at Centreville High School in Fairfax County, Virginia.

During these two weeks, we will spend a great deal of time together in an intensive learning environment. But we will also have more relaxed learning opportunities including a film series spread over four evenings, a visit to the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum, and time at the Library of Congress. And, of course, you will have some free time to explore the cultural opportunities of the greater Washington, D.C., area.

One of the greatest difficulties in teaching about 1989 is the paucity of primary sources in English. Participants in this seminar will be among the first to have full access to the new web resource, *Making the History of 1989*. This website, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, includes a database of more than 300 primary sources from 1989 and its aftermath, a series of multimedia interviews with scholars, and a collection of teaching resources designed to help teachers at all levels put the resources of the website to use in their classrooms. Participants

in the seminar will have the opportunity to publish their work on the website and to take part in the creation of an important resource for colleagues around the country.

Finally, in addition to the Primary Source Activities, participants will return home with a variety of learning materials, including a number of books, DVDs, articles, and websites for use in preparation and teaching.

Reading List:

Required:

- Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of 1989 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and Prague*, (Vintage, 1993)
- Craig Calhoun, *Neither Gods Nor Emperors: Students and the Struggle for Democracy in China*, (University of California Press, 1997)
- Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse, 1970-2000*, (Oxford, 2001)
- Gale Stokes, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down: The Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe*, (Oxford University Press, 1993)
- Sam Wineburg, *Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts: Charting the Future of Teaching the Past*, (Temple University Press, 2001)

Recommended as further resources:

- Michael J. Hunt, *The World Transformed: 1945 to the Present*, (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003)
- Padraic Kenney, *A Carnival Of Revolution: Central Europe 1989*, (Princeton University Press, 2003)
- Tong Shen, *Almost a Revolution: The Story of a Chinese Student's Journey from Boyhood to Leadership in Tiananmen Square*, (University of Michigan Press, 1998)
- *Kolya*, (Miramax, 1997)
- *Good Bye, Lenin!* (Sony Pictures, 2002)

Seminar Schedule

Monday	July 21
Morning	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Lecture and discussion: “Teaching and Learning History in the Digital Age,” T. Mills Kelly</p> <p>****Reading: Peter Stearns, “Goals in History Teaching,” <i>International Review of History Education</i>, Vol. 2, pp. 281-293</p>
Afternoon	<p>Lecture, discussion, and hands on: “Primary Source Activities – what are they?” Elly Greene</p> <p>****Reading: “Primary Sources with a Purpose,” <i>Perspectives</i>, March 2007, and Sample Primary Source Activities, http://chnm.gmu.edu/loudountah/resources.php</p>
Tuesday	July 22
Morning	<p>Hands on work with a primary source: <i>propaganda poster</i></p> <p>Web resources: Tricia Starks, “Soviet Health Posters,” http://chnm.gmu.edu/1989/</p> <p>Lecture and discussion: “What the Textbooks Say (and Don’t Say),” Matthew Romaniello</p> <p>****Reading: Selections from the major textbooks, AP materials</p>
Afternoon	<p>Lecture and discussion: “Historical Thinking,” Mills Kelly</p> <p>****Reading: Samuel Wineburg, <i>Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts</i>; Bruce VanSledright, “Can Ten-Year-Olds Learn to Investigate History As Historians Do?” <i>Organization of American Historians Newsletter</i> 28 (2000); http://www.oah.org/pubs/nl/2000aug/vansledright.html</p>
Evening	Film: <i>Kolya</i>
Wednesday	July 23
Morning	<p>Hands on work with a primary source: <i>official document</i></p> <p>Web resources: David Trask, “Official Documents,” http://chnm.gmu.edu/worldhistorysources/unpacking/docsmain.html</p> <p>Dina Khoury, “Official Documents,” http://chnm.gmu.edu/worldhistorysources/analyzing/documents/analyzingdocsintro.html</p> <p>Research in primary source archive of <i>Making the History of 1989</i></p> <p>Each participant will select two sources for their Primary Source Activities and will write brief summaries of each source.</p>

Afternoon Lecture and discussion: "The Walls Came Tumbling Down," Gale Stokes
****Reading: *Walls Came Tumbling Down*

Thursday	July 24
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Morning Hands on work with a primary source: *video of presidential speech*
Web resource: Tom Gunning, "Making Sense of Film,"
<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/film/>

Book discussion with Gale Stokes

****Reading: *Walls Came Tumbling Down*

Afternoon Lecture and discussion: "Tiananmen Square and its Place in the History of 1989,"
Carma Hinton
Film: *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*

Friday	July 25
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Morning Hands on work with a primary source: *object*
Web resources: Daniel Waugh, "Objects,"
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/worldhistorysources/unpacking/objectsmain.html>
Larry Butler, "Material Culture/Objects,"
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/worldhistorysources/analyzing/mcobjects/analyzingobjsintr.htm>

Lecture and discussion: "The Meaning of Tiananmen Square," Matthew Romaniello

****Reading: Craig Calhoun, *Neither Gods Nor Emperors: Students and the Struggle for Democracy in China*,

Afternoon Lecture and discussion: "Alternative Interpretations of 1989," Mills Kelly

****Reading: *The Magic Lantern*

Saturday	Trip to the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum, or free time to visit Washington, D.C. independently
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Sunday	Free time to visit Washington, D.C., independently
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Monday	July 28
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Morning Lecture and Discussion: "Gorbachev's Role in 1989," Matthew Romaniello

****Reading: Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*

Afternoon Lecture and discussion: "Velvet Revolution or Violent Revolution: The North/South Divide in Eastern Europe," Mills Kelly

****Readings: David Leviatin, "Listening to the New World: Voices from the Velvet Revolution," *The Oral History Review*, 21:1, (Spring, 1993), pp. 9-22.

Tuesday	July 29
Morning	Presentation of Primary Source Activity ideas; Critique from faculty Participants turn in drafts by the end of the day
Afternoon	Film: <i>Before the Rain</i> Lecture and discussion (3:30-5:00): "1989 in its Global Context," Peter Stearns
Wednesday	July 30
All Day	Group trip to the Library of Congress Individual consultations with the Librarians of the European Reading Room, Opportunity to research in the European Reading Room, Asian Reading Room, or the Law Library
Thursday	July 31
Morning	Lecture and discussion: "The Collapse of Yugoslavia," Mills Kelly ****Reading: Sarah Kent, "Writing the Yugoslav Wars: English-Language Books on Bosnia (1992-1996) and the Challenges of Analyzing Contemporary History," <i>American Historical Review</i> , 102:4, (1997), pp. 1085-1114
Afternoon	Film: <i>Good Bye, Lenin!</i>
Friday	August 1
Morning	Presentation and critique of Primary Source Activities
Afternoon	Presentation and critique of Primary Source Activities Concluding activity and evaluation