OUR HISTORY MATTERS: Midcoast Senior College (Fall II)
9:30 - 11:30 am
Instructor: Barbara Lawrence, Co-host George Barker

CLASS 1:
As many writers have suggested, if we don't know our history, we are likely to repeat it. Barbara Tuchman adds that the way to teach history is through stories. Family stories are an important resource for understanding history on a large scale, and if we don't tell them, who will?

We'll discuss ways to discover and tell our stories using methods and sources illustrated by my research for my ninth book, *Both Sides of the Pond, My Family's War: 1933-1946,* which is the history of my British family during World War II. We'll reinforce our understanding of these resources with various in-class exercises such as examining original photographs and documents, and learning from students' family histories.

Introductions: and interviewing

Discussion: Why write and what gets in the way?

Brief introduction and Discussion: Useful definitions for research.

PowerPoint Presentation: Chapters 1 and 2 *Both Sides of the Pond: My Family's War: 1933-1937.* (Make a list of the types of sources and resources I used).

Discussion: What can we learn about our larger history from this story about my family? What can we learn from your family stories?



HOMEWORK: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=8VoaasOtPSY
(Remove space between **.com/** and **watch** to log in or click image).
Watch this video about using ancestry.com. Make a list of sources and resources you have for telling your family story.

Review the attached genealogy forms Dr. Carol McCoy will discuss in the second hour of our class on November 10th: Pedigree Chart, Family Group Chart.

CLASS 2: Chapters 3,4,5)

Discussion: What types of sources and resources do you have for telling your story?

PowerPoint Presentation: From the Phoney War to War: September 4,1939 to August 4, 1940

Discussion: Questions - some without answers

Exercise: Analyzing Documents

PART 2:

Introduction to Genealogy by Dr. Carol McCoy.

HOMEWORK:
Anne Lamott suggests writing a "Shitty First Draft." Try it! Write a draft of no more than 250 words about what you see in a "one-inch frame" (I'll explain in class) that tells a small part of your family story. (Use your senses).

CLASS 3: (Chapters 6 and 7)

Read or tell us about what you wrote for homework.

PowerPoint Presentation: The Battle of Britain, The Blitz and Invasion: August 1940 - December 1940. (List type of sources in my presentation).

Discussion: Key moments. How close did the UK came to losing?

Discussion: sources and second exercise analyzing documents

Exercise: What were they thinking? (Write about anyone in YOUR story). Circle anything that surprises you, that you want to pursue, and that you want to keep as a phrase, wording, or jumping off place.

Discussion

HOMEWORK
Interview someone - family member, friend, or someone who knows about the time you are studying. Review what you wrote in class today and see if it leads you to write a half page or so about the person you wrote about or someone in your family.

CLASS 4: (Chapter 8, 9, 10)

INTERVIEWS FROM HOMEWORK - what can we learn from our own interviews about interviewing and what data did you collect?

PowerPoint Presentation: The Other Side of the Pond: January 15 to October 1941

Discussion: What is an informant and who were my informants? Who could be yours?

Exercise: Organizing the information you collect.

Discussion: Challenges of keeping track of data.

HOMEWORK:
Make a timeline for one person in your story including background history and personal history.

CLASS 5: (Chapters 11,12,13)

Discussion: what did you learn from creating a timeline?

PowerPoint Presentation: As the war ends

Exercise: The Power of Culture. Roles and Status.
Discussion: How does this relate to interviewing and understanding relationships and context?

Exercise: List the specific sources and resources you have for your story, and one you want to find.

HOMEWORK: prepare your story to present at the last class. (Can be written and read or told from notes).

CLASS 6: Chapters 14 and 15

PowerPoint Presentation: Losses of war.

Exercise: Assumptions, hypotheses, and reading between the lines.

Discussion: Consequences of the war?

Presentation of stories

Discussion

CLASS SURVEY (George)

HOMEWORK:
Write your story!