

History 203L
Dimensions of History
11:00-11:50, M, W, F
CAS 228
Spring Semester, 2008

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Week of January 23, 2008

For *Wednesday, January 23*

I will pass out the syllabus for the course, introduce the course website and Blackboard, and start to learn who everyone is (and start you learning who everyone is, too), explain the class work and procedures and entertain any questions you may have.

For *Friday, January 25*

Before we begin our work in *Davidson*, I'd like to have you read a few things about the nature of reading and writing history. Click on the icon to the right, which will take you to the appropriate section of the *Internet Medieval Source Book*. When there, locate the section on "uses of history". Follow the links to...Gerald W. Schlabach: *A Sense of History: Some Components*, and *The Nature of History: A Debate between Marc Trachtenberg and James M. Banner, Jr.*, 1998 **Download and print** these two articles and bring them with you to class. I've deliberately not provided a direct link to the two articles in question because I want you to become good treasure hunters, and begin to think about how web navigation is designed. You'll notice a similarity between the Source Bbook and the class website.

I'm curious as to what you will get out of these two essays with minimal direction from me. To prepare for class discussion, please write, in your own words, and in no more than one sentence each, the most important point each author makes. Note that there are three authors, here, not two. When you have your nine sentences indicate using some shorthand system of your own whether you agree or disagree with each point.

As the author of one of these pages suggests, the "10 Commandments" are worth looking, too. And when it comes time to write in this class, I'll remind you of them.