COURSE DETAIL

HISTORIANS AND THE PROBLEM OF THE ARCHIVE

Country
United Kingdom - England

Host Institution
Exeter College, University of Oxford

Program(s)
Summer in Oxford, Exeter College

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
History

UCEAP Course Number
105

UCEAP Course Suffix
S

UCEAP Official Title
HISTORIANS AND THE PROBLEM OF THE ARCHIVE

UCEAP Transcript Title
HIST: PROBL/ARCHIVE

UCEAP Quarter Units
6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

The course provides the opportunity to engage with an issue that is of vital importance to the discipline of history as we know it, particularly at a time when regimes and practices of establishing and communicating truth based on evidence and objectivity are contested. Philosophers and anthropologists have argued that archives inherently select and organize their materials in ways that necessarily obscure fundamental elements of historical experience, with special reference to empire, colonialism, race, and slavery. The challenge that this radical critique poses to contemporary historians is carefully discussed. At the same time, special attention is given to the work of a growing number of historians, who have transformed the archive into a subject of historical research.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number

Host Institution Course Title
HISTORIANS AND THE PROBLEM OF THE ARCHIVE

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/file/2023/11/Historians-and-the-Problem-of-the-Arch...

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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