Victory Denied: Military Historians Examine Defeat

All meetings will begin at 6:00PM and will be held at the Hattiesburg Library, located at 329 Hardy Street. Several copies of each book will be available for loan at the library before the discussion. For more information, please contact Sean Farrell at the Library at 601-584-3166 or Kyle Zelner at Southern Miss at 601-26-6196 or kyle.zelner@usm.edu.

Tuesday, October 12, 2010


Moderator: Kyle Zelner, Associate Professor of History, University of Southern Mississippi.

Synopsis: “Explaining the motives for the most notorious massacre of the colonial period, Steele offers a gripping tale of a fledgling America, one which places the tragic events of the Seven Years' War in a fresh historical context. ‘An interesting reinterpretation of the events surrounding the fall of Fort William Henry. Steele's history of the fort provides an excellent case study of diplomacy and warfare on the northern colonial frontier.’”

Tuesday, November 9, 2010


Moderator: Andrew Wiest, Professor of History, University of Southern Mississippi.

Synopsis: “In harrowing detail, Fall describes the brutality and frustrations of the Indochina War, the savage eight-year conflict-ending in 1954 after the fall of Dien Bien Phu-in which French forces suffered a staggering defeat at the hands of Communist-led Vietnamese nationalists. With its frontline perspective, vivid reporting, and careful analysis, the book is now considered a classic.”

Tuesday, December 14, 2010—End of Year Social

Come prepared to munch, mingle, and mull over the questions: “What was the best War and Society book of the year?” and “What was the worst?”
Tuesday, January 11, 2011


Moderator: Phyllis Jestice, Professor of History, Univ. of Southern Mississippi

Synopsis: “Phillips draws on the latest developments in Crusade studies to cast new light on the origins, planning, and execution of the Second Crusade. He offers the definitive work on this neglected Crusade that, despite its failed objectives, exerted a profound impact across Europe and the eastern Mediterranean.”

Tuesday, February 8, 2011


Moderator: Heather Stur, Assistant Professor of History, Univ. of Southern Mississippi

Synopsis: “In this powerful collection of essays, Lam explores his identity as a Viet Kieu (a Vietnamese national living abroad) residing in the United States. On April 28, 1975, 11-year-old Lam and his family fled Saigon aboard a crowded C-130 cargo plane just two days before the fall of Saigon to Communist forces. Lam, who grows to realize that home is ‘portable if one is in commune with one's soul,’ embraces the journey of self-discovery and concludes that one's identity is not fixed but ‘open-ended.’”

Tuesday, March 8, 2011


Moderator: Susannah Ural, Associate Professor of History, Univ. of Southern Mississippi

Synopsis: “After his surrender at Appomattox, Robert E. Lee lived only another five years—the forgotten chapter of an extraordinary life. These were his finest hours, when he did more than any other American to heal the wounds between the North and South. Flood draws on new research to create an intensely human and a ‘wonderful, tragic, powerful . . . story for which we have been waiting over a century.’”

Tuesday, April 12, 2011


Moderator: Jeff Bowersox, Assistant Professor of History, Univ. of Southern Mississippi

Synopsis: “Robert G. Moeller powerfully conveys the complicated story of how West Germans recast the recent past after the Second World War. He rejects earlier characterizations of a postwar West Germany dominated by attitudes of ‘forgetting’ or silence about the Nazi past. He instead demonstrates the ‘selective remembering’ that took place among West Germans during the postwar years: in particular, they remembered crimes committed against Germans, crimes that—according to some contemporary accounts—were comparable to the crimes of Germans against Jews.”

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Book: Napoleon and the Hundred Days by Stephen Coote (De Capo Press, 2007).

Moderator: Amy Milne-Smith, Assistant Professor of History, Univ. of Southern Mississippi

Synopsis: “In Vienna, 1815, as the political aristocrats of Europe assembled to determine the fate of the continent after defeating Napoleon, the news arrived that Napoleon had escaped captivity and was returning to France. Displaying his customary blend of a historian's eye and a novelist's dramatic style, Stephen Coote describes how the path to war became inevitable and how, at the battle at Waterloo, the fatigued but ever arrogant Napoleon met his match.”