All meetings will begin at 6:30 PM 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 the University of Southern Mississippi at 601-266-6196 or kyle.zelner@usm.edu.

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

**Book:** Malintzin’s Choices: An Indian Woman in the Conquest of Mexico by Camilla Townsend (University of New Mexico Press, 2006).

**Moderator:** Sarah Franklin, Assistant Professor of History, University of Southern Mississippi.

**Synopsis:** “Malintzin was the indigenous woman who translated for Hernando Cortés in his dealings with the Aztec Emperor Moctezuma from 1519 to 1521. In this study of Malintzin's life, Camilla Townsend rejects all the previous myths and tries to restore dignity to the profoundly human men and women who lived and died in those days. Drawing on Spanish and Aztec language sources, she breathes new life into an old tale, and offers insights into the major issues of conquest and colonization.”

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

**Book:** Slacks and Calluses: Our Summer in a Bomber Factory by Constance Bowman Reid and Clara Marie Allen (Smithsonian, 2004).

**Moderator:** Ruth Percy, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, University of Southern Mississippi.

**Synopsis:** “In 1943 America’s defense industries were so desperate for workers that school teachers were asked to work in factories during summer vacation. This book is the first-hand story of two women who served their country by assembling B-24 Liberator bombers on the swing shift.”

Tuesday, November 10, 2009


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

**Synopsis:** “This autobiography of the ‘Red Baron,’ was written shortly before his death in April 1918 while the pilot was in the hospital recovering from a wound. Von Richthofen was the most successful combat pilot of World War I with eighty confirmed victories. This book offers an excellent first-person account of the first air war over Europe.”

Tuesday, December 8, 2009—End of the 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 12, 2010

Book: *Outwitting the Gestapo* by Lucie Aubrac (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1994).

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

Synopsis: “The story of Lucie Aubrac, a history teacher newly married to Raymond, a Jewish engineer, when World War II broke out and divided France. The couple, living in the Vichy zone, soon joined the Resistance. This is the harrowing account of her participation in the Resistance, when, though pregnant, she planned and took part in raids to free her comrades—including her husband.”

Tuesday, February 9, 2010


Moderator: Brian LaPierre, Assistant Professor of History, University of Southern Mississippi.

Synopsis: “The 1979-1989 Soviet war in Afghanistan, as Russian author Alexievich remarks in this oral history, wrenched boys from their daily life of school or college, music and discos, and hurled them into a hell of filth. She conveys that hell here through the grotesque memories of infantrymen, helicopter pilots, tank crewmen, medical corpsmen and political officers who survived the ordeal, plus those of widows and mothers of fighters—the ‘zinky boys’ brought home in zinc coffins.”

Tuesday, March 9, 2010


Moderator: Sean Farrell, Assistant Director, Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, & Forrest County.

Synopsis: “When the Irish nationalist Michael Collins signed the Anglo-Irish Treaty in December 1921, he observed to Lord Birkenhead that he may have signed his own death warrant. In August 1922 that prophecy came true when Collins was ambushed, shot and killed by a compatriot. This biography presents the life of a man whose idealistic vigor and determination were matched by his political realism and organizational abilities.”

Tuesday, April 13, 2010


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

Synopsis: “A unit history of the 4th Texas Infantry in epistolary form, Joseph B. Polley's letters make available the correspondence of a soldier who participated in virtually all military action in the Eastern Theater. Polley was an unusually gifted writer, with a talent for satire and humor unmatched by most Civil War diarists.”

Tuesday, May 11, 2010


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

Synopsis: “A biography that debunks the tall tales of legend to expose the essence of Crazy Horse, profiling him as a brilliant and ascetic warrior-hero whose life summarizes the Native American tragedy during the late nineteenth century.”