

# The Practice of History

Dr. Annette Timm, MWF 10:00, KNB 133

What is history? The knowledge that we all have a past would seem to be simple common sense. And yet, what it is that historians actually do when they research, write, and argue about the past is a matter of remarkable confusion and controversy, even within the discipline itself. How do we get from the dusty archive to a gripping narrative? How do we convince others that the particular argument we make about the past is valid? How have new technologies transformed the thinking, arguments, and practices of professional and amateur historians? And how does historical knowledge enter and influence current political and social debate? This course is aimed at history majors and will present a survey of the range of historical methods and modes of argumentation that historians have used and are developing.

## Readings:

*Doing History* by Mark Donnelly and Claire Norton, *The Cheese and the Worms* by Carlo Ginzburg, and a selection of online readings.

## Assessment:

- class participation
- essay on Ginzburg
- small assignments
  - research essay
  - no exams

