

These questions are designed to guide your reading and highlight elements on which you can focus your analysis. In your weekly journal entry, you are required to directly address AT LEAST ONE of these questions below (one total, not one per reading), although addressing more of them is welcomed. Journal entries must reference and discuss ALL the required readings for a given week. Think about how the different readings speak to one another and compare/contrast in terms of content and style.

STILGOE, *OUTSIDE LIES MAGIC*

What is a landscape? What are its component parts?

How do places function as historical texts? What do we need to supplement these texts to understand the history of that particular place and its people?

How American is this book? Wires, rails, fences, mail routes guide Stilgoe’s explorations. What would be the guides and traces that lead explorers in Europe, in Asia, in Africa, in Latin America?

What kinds of landscapes does Stilgoe favor? What kinds does he dislike?

What should Americans do with their redundant landscapes? How does exploration demonstrate the value in many different kinds of landscapes?

Does landscape necessarily have to be beautiful?

What is an ordinary landscape that you see in your everyday life, and how does this book help you see it differently?

LIDDINGTON, “WHAT IS PUBLIC HISTORY?”

What is academic history: who writes it? Who reads it? What are its advantages and disadvantages?

What is public history: who writes it? Who reads it? What format does it take? What are its advantages and disadvantages?

How does public history differ around the English-speaking world, and why? What does a nation’s public history tell us about a nation’s understanding of itself and its past?

Can you think of an example of public history that you have found interesting? What did it teach you? What did it miss?

SZIJARTO, “FOUR ARGUMENTS FOR MICROHISTORY”

What are microhistory’s four characteristics?

What are the advantages of microhistory, according to the author?

Whose stories are told in microhistory? Judging from the author’s discussion, what kinds of details or topics might be the subject of a microhistory?

What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of telling the detailed history of a very narrowly-defined place?