HS1701 - Approaches to History - Rankeanism and the professionalization of history -

**Introduction**
- Foundation of professional discipline, (history practised in university departments)
- Early 19th century: Germany
- Mid-late 19th century: W. Europe and USA
- Specialist skills
- Objectivity
- Superior to amateur history
- BUT ... were professional historians really objective?

**Amateur History**
- Certain characteristics that stand out
- Diverse subject matter: histories of society, culture, ideas ...
- Diversity of practitioners (a wide range of people who actually wrote history)
- No institutional structure, there were historians before the professionalization of history in universities, but it wasn’t clear on what the standards were
- History as progress: particularly progress of nations

**Amateur History: History as Progress**
- Manifestations in different countries
- Whig history (Britain):
  - Growth of constitutional liberty
  - Belief in science
  - Positivism: historical laws
  - Deductive approach
  - Teleological

- Political purpose
- History should advance progress
- Histories of nation
- Judged by national standards
- Education of governing elite
- Accessible style, because it was aimed at the educated classes and that it would help them govern more effectively
- Literary sources (such as lectures and speeches), there is even an element of class snobbery here.

**Professional History**
- Professional historians: claim to superiority
- But not a complete break with the past
- Unacknowledged biases
- Rejection of historical laws
- Each period unique