

Editor's Note: The "Unplugged" series will be a regular feature spotlighting exceptional professors on campus.



Photo: David Stanton

Professor Thomas Gallant assists students after his "Cops and Robbers" class.

PROFESSOR
Unplugged:
Prof.
Thomas
Gallant

Gallant is a professor "ahead of his time."

Jeremy Rottgen
The Gator Times staff

Working overhead projections and chalk dust are ancient history, at least to some teachers. The warm embrace of technology by one professor has introduced students to a new way of learning both in and out of the classroom.

Dr. Thomas W. Gallant has been a professor of Mediterranean history at the University of Florida since 1984. He has won the John Maine Award for undergraduate teaching and had an essay published in *The American Historical Review*. The review, according to Gallant, is to historians what the *Medical Journal* is to health professionals.

Part of Gallant's success in teaching comes from the integration of a multimedia CD-ROM that fortifies the material in class. This innovative way of melding multimedia and education has yet to be seen in most other classes.

Gallant is involved with the production of the multimedia software, which includes vital class material.

"It includes Powerpoint presentations, worksheets for discussion sections and study guides, along with pictures from class to help students," Gallant said.

"The CD reiterated and went beyond what we went over in class and put students in an advantage because we were learning about yesterday using the technology of today," said Bessam Ammar, a former student in one of Gallant's European history classes.

A famous class taught by Gallant is "Cops & Robbers" (EUH 4617), a study of crime, criminal justice and policing in Europe from around 1700-1900.

Mike Korn, a student currently enrolled in the course noted Gallant's enthusiasm about the subject.

"He makes it fun and interesting," he said. When asked about the multimedia aspect

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of the course, students responded with positive remarks.

"The CD-ROM makes the class easier to prepare for," Korn said.

Other classes taught by Gallant include *Ancient Greece* (EUH 3401), *History of Europe from 1764-1848* (EUH 3204), *Modern Balkans* (EUH 4332) and *Modern Greece* (EUH 4405).

He is currently researching and writing the first of a trilogy on crime and punishment in Europe. The National Science and the H. F. Guggenheim foundations are funding the research.

Gallant received his doctorate from Cambridge University in England. He then continued work in a post-doctorate program until his arrival at UF in 1984.

"It was an honor to attend such a prestigious school," Gallant said of his experience at

Cambridge. "I continued to study there in a post-doctorate program until Margaret Thatcher cut many programs, one of which was mine."

Published works by Gallant include "Modern Greece" and an article in *The American Historical Review* called "Honor, Masculinity and Ritual Knife Fighting in Nineteenth-Century Greece."

In his free time, Gallant enjoys training at the Gainesville Dojo and cooking with fusion styles.

Do you know of an exceptional professor that you would like to see featured? E-mail: news@gatortimes.com with a nomination.

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