

INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL RESEARCH

HIST 3300- Fall 2012

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Office Hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Introduction to the methods that historians use to conduct research and present their findings in written and oral form. In this section we will focus on the colonial Americas.

CLASS PREREQUISITES: Required for History majors

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

- Arnold, *History: A Very Short Intro*
- Storey, *Writing History*, 4th edition
- Tosh, *The Pursuit of History*, 5th edition
- Turabian, *Manual for Writers*, 7th edition (strongly recommended, but not required)
- A package of 3x5 index cards

CLASS FORMAT: This seminar is a hands-on introduction to history, historiography and the methods of historical research. This class is highly participatory and divided into three parts. In the first part, you will be learning about and discussing history and historical analysis. In the second part, you will be doing history - research and writing. And, in the third part, you will be presenting history - your final paper and presentation.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (Course Objectives): Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- explain the methods and historiography of the historical profession
- develop analytical skills by scrutinizing primary source documents and writing book reviews
- develop critical thinking skills by discussing the living nature of history, critiquing different interpretations of the same events and explaining how the manipulation of the past can provide insights into later periods.
- conduct historical research using primary and secondary documents and present this information in a coherent, well-articulated and well-substantiated paper
- present the paper's findings orally.

ASSIGNMENTS, ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

Your grade for this course will be based upon the following scale

Grade Scale: A = 270-300; B = 240-269; C = 210-239; D = 180-209; F = 179 and below

Learning About History and Historical Analysis: 25% of your grade. Grade is based upon

preparations for class, classroom discussions and assignments, attendance, and participation in the Blackboard module for the course. Worth up to 75 points

The Research and Writing Process: 25% of your grade. This includes classroom participation/preparations for discussion about the research/writing process, attendance, participation in the Blackboard module for the course, the abstract for your paper, preliminary bibliography, and rough draft of your paper and discussions with the professor about your research and writing. Worth up to 75 points.

Final Presentation of Work: 50% of your grade. This includes the final, polished 15-20 page original research paper and the oral presentation about your topic. Worth up to 150 points.

Full information on each of these assignments will be discussed in class and will be posted, according to the course calendar, in the Blackboard course module.

CLASS OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS: - Can be found in the Blackboard Course Module.

CLASS CALENDAR: Can be found in the Blackboard Course Module

CLASS POLICIES AND INFORMATION

A Respectful Learning Environment: It is the goal of the Department of History and the College of Liberal Arts to create and maintain a respectful learning environment in online courses. The official policy concerning communications within this course is stated below:

"When contacting your instructor via email, remember to construct your messages both respectfully and carefully (be as specific as possible with your questions). In this course, as with any other UTA course, your communication with students and faculty should be the utmost professional. When communicating with your peers and instructor, there will be NO discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, ideology, political affiliation, veteran status, age, physical handicap, or marital status. Keep in mind that instructors reserve the right to manage a positive learning environment and thus will not tolerate inappropriate conduct in the course. All UTA students are responsible for behaving in a manner consistent with UTA's Standard Code of Conduct. Students violating these codes will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct."

Participation Policy: Regular participation is required. I take roll in this class. Students with more than two unexcused absences will see a deduction in their grade. Students who text, surf the web, listen to MP3s, etc. during class, arrive habitually late or leave habitually early will also see their grade deducted.

Drop Policy: See your advisor and the academic calendar for information.

E-Mail Policy: The University email address is the official means of communication with students. *I require all students to check their UTA email account frequently.*

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing me of your needs at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Academic Dishonesty: It is the philosophy of UTA that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. I take scholastic dishonesty very seriously – if the excerpt below is unclear, see me. I consider copying directly from the text or internet sites without proper citation as plagiarism. If in doubt, cite. I do not give credit for plagiarized assignments or cheating on exams and I will refer plagiarism to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

BOTTOM LINE: If you feel that you are falling behind, need help in writing/researching or have any other difficulty with this course, please see/contact me right away and I will attempt to help you myself or direct you to available resources. Don't just flounder along, seek aid while there is still time to get a higher grade.