**HISTORY 3300-001**

**Summer 2013, 11 Weeks**

**Introduction to Historical Methods**

**Tuesday and Thursday,**

**University Hall, Room 16**

Oliver Lee Bateman, JD, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of History

University Hall, Room 329

[batemano@uta.edu](mailto:batemano@uta.edu)

**Office Hours (Summer 2013):**

By appointment

**Required Readings/Texts:**

Evans, Richard J.  *In Defense of History*. New York: Norton, 1997.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007.

**Useful Links:**

*Making Sense of Evidence*, on the History Matters Website. History Matters is an excellent website featuring writings by leading historians in various fields discussing how to use, analyze, and make sense of various types of historical sources, such as oral history, numbers/statistics, films, maps, letters/diaries, photos, etc. At: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/browse/makesense/>.

UT Arlington Librarian Rafia Mirza’s Texas History Guide

<http://libguides.uta.edu/texas>

UT Arlington History Dept.

<http://www.uta.edu/history/>

UT Arlington History Dept. Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/295146943849479/>

UT Arlington Library Webpage

<http://library.uta.edu>

Reading, Writing, and Researching for History: A Guide for College Students, by Patrick Rael

<http://academic.bowdoin.edu/WritingGuides/>

Finding/Evaluating Info on the Internet: Tutorial Table of Contents

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/FindInfo.html>

Texas State Historical Association

<http://www.tshaonline.org>

Undergraduate History Major Listserv

<http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~hstmajor/>

William Strunk Jr. *The Elements of Style*

<http://www.bartleby.com/141/index.html>

**Course Description:**

This is a required course for history majors at UT Arlington and emphasizes the fact that history is both an art and a science. It is a discipline that requires skills in designing a viable research question, identifying and evaluating primary and secondary sources, critical thinking, written composition, project design, and public presentation. History is a human construction, and it is important for history majors and others to understand this. As historians James Davidson and Mark Lytle have written in their book *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection*, “History is not ‘what happened in the past’; rather, it is the act of selecting, analyzing, and writing about the past. It is something that is done, that is constructed, rather than an inert body of data that lies scattered through the archives.” With this definition in mind, I have developed this course to teach students how to “do” history—to think, research, and write like a historian.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will understand history as a discipline, including its methods and processes.

Students will be able to differentiate the differences between primary and secondary sources, and be able to analyze each type of source.

Students will know how to locate primary and secondary sources at UT Arlington and at other libraries/archives.

Students will be able to define a project for study and write a project proposal.

Students will demonstrate their ability to collect, analyze, organize, and write their research findings, producing a footnoted research paper complete with a detailed bibliography.

Students will be able to communicate their findings to the class in an oral presentation.

**Course Format/Method of Instruction:**

This is NOT your typical history course where we concentrate on a specific topic, era, or event, and focus lectures, readings, and discussions on that topic. Rather, the course will be structured as a seminar, where students will be required to keep up with the assignments, be prepared each class period to discuss what is on the course schedule, participate actively in class, prepare and turn in assignments on time, meet one-on-one with me to assess progress, and revise their work and resubmit it when necessary. I will give an occasional lecture (more at the beginning of the semester), but we will also have sessions designed to make you a more competent researcher and writer.

**Course Assignments/Grading:**

Students enrolled in the class will:

1. Prepare a proposal for a major research paper, conduct the research, turn in an outline of the paper to the instructor prior to writing, write the paper and turn in a first draft, and revise as necessary before resubmitting the paper for the final grade. **You must go through EACH of these steps BEFORE I will give you a final grade for your paper.** The first draft of your paper (consisting of the topic identification paper, the research proposal, and the first draft itself) will be worth 25% of your grade and the final draft will be worth 25% of your final grade.

2. Give a 20-minute oral presentation (15 minutes for the presentation/5 minutes for Q&A) based on your research paper. The oral presentation is worth 25% of your grade.

3. Participate actively in each seminar discussion. Class participation is worth 25% of your grade.

**Student Responsibilities:**

Students should demonstrate respectful behavior for their fellow students and the professor. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. I reserve the right to ask any misbehaving students to leave the classroom, and I will reduce their grade in the class accordingly. Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments on-time and to turn in written assignments on the day they are due and in the manner in which the course materials mandate. Students who miss 3-4 classes (including scheduled one-on-one meetings with the professor) will have their course grade dropped by one letter g rade, while students who miss more than 5 classes will have their grade dropped by two letter grades. **Whenever you miss a class, please remember that YOU are responsible for any information you have missed in class, including announcements.**

**Drop Policy:**

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:**

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

It is the philosophy of UT Arlington that academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated. 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. “Scholastic dishonesty includes but it 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, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” (See Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22). **In this class, students found guilty of plagiarism or other forms of cheating will receive a grade of “F” for the course.**

**Student Support Services**:

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:**

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Students must consult their University email address regularly since this is the address I will use to contact you or to send messages to the entire class. I accept papers and other writing assignments in class and NOT through email.** Exceptions may be granted in the event of emergencies.

**Student Feedback Survey:**

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:**

UT Arlington policy states that a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Library Assistance:**

Rafia Mirza is the librarian assigned to the History Department. She is a tremendous resource and can be very helpful with all of your History assignments. She can be reached at 817-272-7428 and by email at [rafia@uta.edu](mailto:rafia@uta.edu). You will find helpful information/links on her History guide page at: <http://libguides.uta.edu/history>. Her office is Room 311, Central Library.

**Schedule of Lectures, Readings, and Seminar Discussions**

**June 4, 2013 – Class 1**

Lectures: “Course Requirements and Policies” (Syllabus)

“What is History?” (PowerPoint Presentation)

Discussion: “Topic Identification and Research Proposals: What Should I Write About?”

Readings: None

**June 6, 2013 – Class 2**

Lecture: “The Varieties of Historical Writing”

Discussion: “What Kind of Historian Am I?”

Readings: Degler, Carl N. “Remaking American History.” *Journal of American History* 67 (June 1980). Available via Blackboard.

Bateman, O.L. “Can Sports Save Us?” Available at <http://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/can-sports-save-us/>

Evans, 7-12, 39-62.

**June 11, 2013 – Class 3**

Lecture: “Facts are Fights”

“Writing the Topic Identification Paper”

Discussion: “What is Truth?”

Readings: Drakeman, Donald. “*Everson v. Board of Education* and the Quest for the Historical Establishment Clause,” *American Journal of Legal History* 49 (2007). Available via Blackboard.

Evans, 66-89.

**June 13, 2013 - NO CLASS**

Topic identification papers due via email by 6:00 p.m.

**June 18, 2013 – Class 4**

Lecture: “Causation in History”

“How to Write a Research Proposal”

Discussion: “Why Did It Happen?”

Readings: Evans, 111-137.

**June 20, 2013 – NO CLASS**

**June 25, 2013 – Individual meetings, 6:10-8:50.**

**Research proposals due by 2:00 p.m.**

**June 27, 2013 – Class 5**

Lecture: “A Perfect Paper?”

Discussion: “Histories I’ve Enjoyed”

Reading: Darnton, Robert. “The Great Cat Massacre.” *History Today* (August 19 89). At: <http://www.misterdann.com/earlyargreatcatmassacre.htm>.

Evans, 139-164.

**July 2, 2013 – NO CLASS**

First drafts due via email by 6:00 p.m.

**July 4, 2013 – HOLIDAY, NO CLASS**

**July 9, 2013 – Individual Meetings**

Starting at 6:30 p.m., individual meetings will take place to discuss these first drafts. A sign-up sheet for these meetings will be circulated on June 27, 2013.

**July 11, 2013 – Class 6**

Lecture: “The Argument”

Discussion: “The Importance of the First Page”

Reading: Evans, 194-220.

**Class 7**

**July 16, 2013 – Class 7**

Lecture: “Historians in Public”

Discussions: Blogging Your Work

Readings: Bateman, O.L. “The Perfect Male Body.” Available at <http://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/the-perfect-male-body/>

AND

Phillips, Brian. “A Fighter Abroad.” Available at <http://www.grantland.com/story/_/id/7476455/brian-phillips-boxing-career-freed-american-slave-tom-molineaux>

OR

Smith, J.E.H. “Working Arrangement.” Available at <http://www.laphamsquarterly.org/essays/working-arrangement.php?page=all>

OR

Reading: Lepore, Jill. “The Lie Factory.” Available at <http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2012/09/24/120924fa_fact_lepore>

**July 18, 2013 – Class 8**

Lecture: “Can History Make Me a Better Person?”

Discussion: “Our Lives and Life Itself”

Reading: Benjamin, Walter. “On the Concept of History.” Available at <http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/benjamin/1940/history.htm>

**July 23, 2013 – Class 9**

Presentations begin (5). A sign-up for these presentations will be circulated on July 18, 2013.

**July 25, 2013 – Class 10**

Presentations continue (5).

**July 30, 2013 – Class 11**

Presentations continue (5).

**August 1, 2013 – Class 12**

Presentations conclude (3).

**August 6, 2013 – Individual Meetings**

Starting at 6:30 p.m., individual meetings will take place to discuss final drafts. A sign-up sheet for these meetings will be circulated on August 1, 2013.

**August 8, 2013 – NO CLASS**

Final drafts due via email by 6:00 p.m.