Course Overview

HI 200-01 Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Tona Hangen

Office: Sullivan 327D, x8688

Email: thangen@worcester.edu

Tues/Thurs 10:00 - 11:15, S-318

PreReqs: Any 2 100-level History

classes

This course is a 3-credit requirement in the History major and minor and must be successfully completed before your History major capstone



HI 200: The Historian's Craft

A hands-on methods course exploring history as a scholarly discipline and professional field

This course provides students an overview of historiography and methods in history, and offers opportunities to build your research, writing and interpretive skills through intensive work with sources, texts, and other historical evidence. By the end of this course, you will understand better how historians work and how history is made and constructed. You will also feel confident in approaching your own historical investigations because you will possess the practical skills and methodological tools appropriate to our discipline. Over the course of the semester, you will build and polish a portfolio of your work, forming a solid foundation for more advanced and independent future work in the history major/minor and beyond.

Reading List

Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations 8e (University of Chicago, 2013), ISBN 978-0226816388

James W. Loewen, Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong, Revised ed. (New Press, 2007) ISBN 9781595583260

John Lewis Gaddis, The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past (Oxford UP, 2004) ISBN 978-0195171570

* I **strongly** encourage you to PURCHASE, rather than rent, all of these books – this course is designed to help you develop a skills "toolkit" and a personal library of books and resources you can use throughout other history courses and in your professional life.

Assignments & Course Requirements

Class participation and discussion will be critical to your learning in the course. Please be on time and ready for discussion, with the reading at hand and laptops if specified, in each class. That said, history is not just a spectator sport; you must speak up in class to get full participation credit.

For this course, you will set up an **e-Portfolio** in Blackboard, which will eventually serve as an end-of-term "filebox" for your coursework (journal entries and papers).

You'll write eleven **weekly journal assignments** within Blackboard's Journal feature. Most journal assignments will have specific writing prompts, while others are open-ended. Each entry should be at least 500 words long. Post journals on your site by Friday at midnight on assigned dates.

You will write **three papers**, one at the end of each unit. During each unit you should identify a research topic of interest to you. You can use the same topic for all three units or you can pick a new one each time. The first two papers are 4-6 pages long (1000 - 1500 words) and employ full and correct Chicago Style footnotes, which is the conventional style for the discipline of history. The third paper will be an annotated bibliography. Each paper is worth 20% of your course grade. See Blackboard for complete paper assignment guidelines.

Course Policies

We will be busy in every class session, and we don't need any technological distractions.

Silence your cell phones before entering, no texting in class. Laptops are useful and frequently essential - but please, don't surf the internet, check email, or use social media.

STAY ON TASK.

I check EMAIL often during working hours, and that is the preferred way to contact me. Be patient if you don't hear back right away evenings and weekends.

My OFFICE is Sullivan 327-D and my regular office hours are posted on my door and listed under the "Prof Info" tab on the course website. However, I am always happy to arrange a time before or after class if you need to meet with me outside of my designated office hours.

If you have a documented DISABILITY and need a reasonable accommodation made for you in this course, please share your documentation with me early on so we can make appropriate arrangements.

CANCELLATIONS: In case class is cancelled for some reason (illness, University closure, snowstorm, etc.) please check the course website for an online version of the week's materials and course topic.

Grading

Class Participation On time, Prepared, Strong Discussion Skills		20%
ePortfolio	Site with 11 Journal Entries and Portfolio	20%
Paper #1	Source Comparison, due Oct 1	20%
Paper #2	Practice of History, due Nov 7	20%
Paper #3	Annotated Bibliography, due Dec 17	20%
	Total	100%

In addition to Blackboard, all course news, content and assignments will be posted online at: http://wsu.tonahangen.com/craft

Please bookmark and check the Wordpress site frequently for course updates; it is our primary method of course communication and will always contain most up-to-date information.

Course Syllabus

#	DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
	UNIT 1	"DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY"		
1	Th Sept 5	History Clichés, Myths, and Tropes		PreTest by 9/10
2	T Sept 10	Portfolio + Textbook Workshop	Bring laptops	
3	Th Sept 12	Historical Thinking, History Education	Loewen Intro, Wineburg, HT Frameworks	J1 = Fri 9/13
4	T Sept 17	Loewen Discussion Day #1	Loewen Ch by assignment	
5	Th Sept 19	Loewen Discussion Day #2	Loewen Ch by assignment	J2 = Fri 9/20
6	T Sept 24	Writing from Sources	Turabian Ch 1-4	
7	Th Sept 26	Historiography + Paper 1 Workshop	Historiography Module - Bbd	J3 = Fri 9/27
	UNIT 2	THE CRAFT OF HISTORY		
8	T Oct 1	Archives and Private Papers	Stowe, "Making Sense of Letters and Diaries" (link)	Paper #1
9	Th Oct 3	Manuscript Collections Workshop Day	Bring laptops	J4 = Fri 10/4
10	T Oct 8	Scientific Evidence - Guest Discussion	Genetics Packet PDF, Williams 9.6 and 9.7	
11	Th Oct 10	Scientific Evidence Workshop Day	Bring laptops	J5 = Fri 10/11
12	T Oct 15	Listening to the Past	Douglas "Radio Comedy" PDF	
13	Th Oct 17	Radio / Recordings Workshop Day	Bring laptops	J6 = Fri 10/18
14	T Oct 22	Intro to Government Documents	"GovDocs" PDF + links	
15	Th Oct 24	Government Documents Workshop Day	Bring laptops	J7 = Fri 10/25
16	T Oct 29	Mapping History	Stephens, "Making Sense of Maps" (link)	
17	Th Oct 31	Maps Workshop Day	Bring laptops	J8 = Fri 11/1

#	DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
	UNIT 3	THE HISTORY PROFESSION		
18	T Nov 5	How Historians Map the Past	Gaddis, Landscape of History 1-6	
19	Th Nov 7	Molecules with Minds of their Own	Gaddis, Landscape of History 7-8	Paper #2
20	T Nov 12	Library Day	Bring laptops - Location TBA	
21	Th Nov 14	Research Day	Bring laptops and Turabian	J9 = Fri 11/15
22	T Nov 19	Film as History, History on Film	Gunning, "Making Sense of Films" (link)	
23	Th Nov 21	Digital History	Digital History Module - Bbd	J10 = Fri 11/22
24	T Nov 26	Public History	Value of History; NCPH links	
		Thanksgiving Break, No Class 11/28		
25	T Dec 3	Historical Memory	Elliott PDF, Theriault PDF	
26	Th Dec 5	Professional Ethics	Ethics Packet PDF	J11 = Fri 12/6
27	T Dec 10	Writing Workshop for Paper 3	Bring PRINTED draft of Annotated Bibliography	PostTest by 12/10
	T Dec 17	(no class) - designated final exam date	Portfolio & Annotated Bibliography due by NOON, electronic submission	Paper #3

Course Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will...

Distinguish between primary, second and tertiary sources, apply appropriate scholarly questions to each, and correctly employ Chicago Style citation for one's sources. (**Sourcing and Citation**)

Demonstrate understanding of how professional historians work and how history and historiography are constructed. (**Disciplinary Knowledge Construction**)

Build one's own research, writing, and interpretive skills through intensive work with sources, texts, and other historical evidence. (**Effective Communication and Research Skills**)

Construct a reflective journal and portfolio of coursework, which can be extended elsewhere in the major or minor. (**Self-Aware and Integrated Learning**)