

Course Overview

HI 200-OL Spring 2021

Instructor: Dr. Tona Hangen

Office: Sullivan 327D

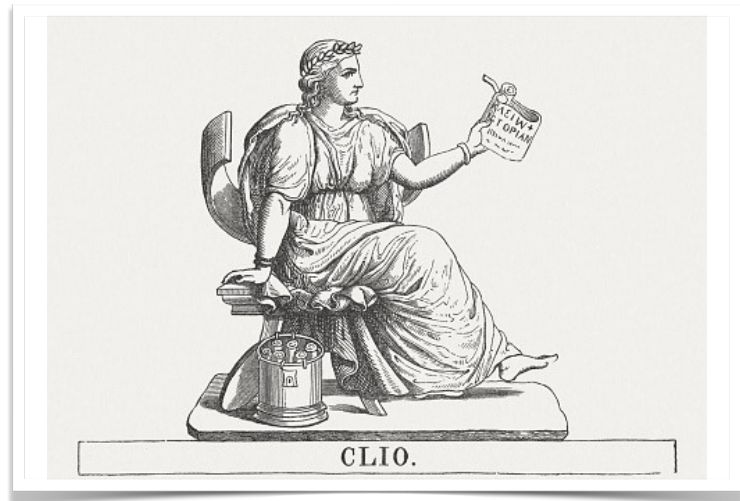
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Voicemail / Text: 617-506-9440

Meets Mon/Wed 12:30 - 1:45 via Zoom

PreReqs: Any two 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.

Required Texts

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* 9e (University of Chicago, 2018), ISBN 978-0-226-430577

James W. Loewen, *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*, Revised ed. (New Press, 2018) ISBN 978-1595583260

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 for each class. That said, history is not just a spectator sport; you must speak up in class to get full participation credit. Since we meet via Zoom, I will note your participation and presence by either seeing or hearing you, and/or by your comments in the chat space.

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

You’ll write eleven **weekly journal assignments** within Blackboard’s Journal feature. Journals cannot be seen by the entire class; they are only viewable between the instructor and yourself. 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. These are open-ended and can range widely across any field, time period, or world region. 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

I check EMAIL often during working hours, and that is the preferred way to contact me. If you leave a message on my actual WSU office number, I am unlikely to ever hear it. Instead, I welcome texts or voicemails on my Google Voice line: 617-506-9440. Be patient if you don’t hear back right away evenings and weekends.

My office is Sullivan 327-D (though I will not be there very often during the Spring 2021 term). I hold regular virtual OFFICE HOURS via Zoom or phone. To book an appointment, use Calendly: calendly.com/thangen/office-hours-meeting. If my regular times do not meet up with your schedule, contact me to arrange an alternative time.

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

CANCELLATIONS: University cancellations *do* cancel our classes as well. Also note the two Monday holidays on the calendar. If class is cancelled on a day the University is open, I’ll post an announcement on Blackboard.

Class Participation	On time, Prepared, Strong Discussion Skills	20%
ePortfolio	11 Journal Entries and Portfolio	20%
Paper #1	Source Comparison, due March 1	20%
Paper #2	Practice of History, due April 5	20%
Paper #3	Annotated Bibliography, due May 12	20%
	Total	100%

Our class meets over Zoom unless otherwise specified. Please make sure you also have access to an internet enabled computer / device during class (i.e. not just a mobile phone). Do not join class from your car or while driving.

To succeed in a synchronous online course, you need to be comfortable using Blackboard and WSU email, including uploading documents and making email attachments. You need reliable internet access throughout the entire course that will support use of videoconferencing software. You need a device with a microphone and speaker so you can access audio and video content and contribute to synchronous meetings. Headphones and a webcam are *highly* recommended. You will need Adobe Reader and a full installation of Microsoft Office (available as free download from WSU Information Technologies). You should know how to insert footnote references in Word and how to save and send documents in multiple formats (such as .docx and .pdf). You need to be comfortable communicating and writing in standard business English.

Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change; see Blackboard Course News for any updates.

#	DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
UNIT 1 "DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY"				
1	M Feb 1	History Clichés, Myths, and Tropes		PreTest by 2/5
2	W Feb 3	Portfolio + Textbook Workshop	Have access to a college-level history survey textbook	
3	M Feb 8	Historical Thinking, History Education	Loewen Intro, WIneburg, HT Frameworks	
4	W Feb 10	Loewen Discussion Day #1	Loewen Ch by assignment	J1 = Fri 2/12
	<i>M Feb 15</i>	<i>No Class; University Holiday</i>		
5	W Feb 17	Loewen Discussion Day #2	Loewen Ch by assignment	J2 = Fri 2/19
6	M Feb 22	Writing from Sources	Turabian Ch 1-4	
7	W Feb 24	Historiography + Paper 1 Workshop	Historiography Module - Bbd	J3 = Fri 2/26
UNIT 2 THE CRAFT OF HISTORY				
8	M Mar 1	Archives and Private Papers	Stowe, "Making Sense of Letters and Diaries" (link)	Paper #1
9	W Mar 3	Manuscript Collections Workshop Day		J4 = Fri 3/5
10	M Mar 8	Scientific Evidence Workshop Day		
11	W Mar 10	Scientific Evidence Guest Speaker	Genetics Packet PDF, Williams 9.6 and 9.7	J5 = Fri 3/12
12	M Mar 15	Listening to the Past	Douglas "Radio Comedy" PDF	
13	W Mar 17	Radio / Recordings Workshop Day	Prep with 45+ minutes of listening; take notes	J6 = Fri 3/19

#	DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
14	M Mar 22	Intro to Government Documents	"GovDocs" PDF + links	
15	W Mar 24	Government Documents Workshop Day		J7 = Fri 3/26
16	M Mar 29	Mapping History	Stephens, "Making Sense of Maps" (link)	
17	W Mar 31	Maps Workshop Day		J8 = Fri 4/2
UNIT 3 THE HISTORY PROFESSION				
18	M Apr 5	How Historians Map the Past	Gaddis, <i>Landscape of History</i> 1-6	Paper #2
19	W Apr 7	Molecules with Minds of their Own	Gaddis, <i>Landscape of History</i> 7-8	
20	M Apr 12	Library and Research Day		
21	W Apr 14	Film as History, History on Film	Gunning, "Making Sense of Films" (link)	J9 = Fri 4/16
	<i>M Apr 19</i>	<i>No Class; University Holiday</i>		
22	W Apr 21	Digital History	Digital History Module - Bbd	J10 = Fri 4/23
23	M Apr 26	Public History	Value of History; NCPH links	
24	W Apr 28	Historical Memory	Elliott PDF, Theriault PDF	J11 = Fri 4/30
25	M May 3	Professional Ethics	Ethics Packet PDF	
26	W May 5	Writing Workshop for Paper 3	Be able to SHARE a draft of your Annotated Bibliography	PostTest by 5/10
	W May 12	(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...

Build your own research, writing, and interpretive skills through intensive work with sources, texts, and other historical evidence.

Recognize the provisional nature of historical knowledge and the disciplinary preference for complexity.

Develop historical methods through ethical historical inquiry.

Create historical arguments and narratives by generating substantive, open-ended questions about the past and developing research strategies to answer them.

