

Course Overview

HI 200-01 Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Tona Hangen

Office: Sullivan 327D x8688

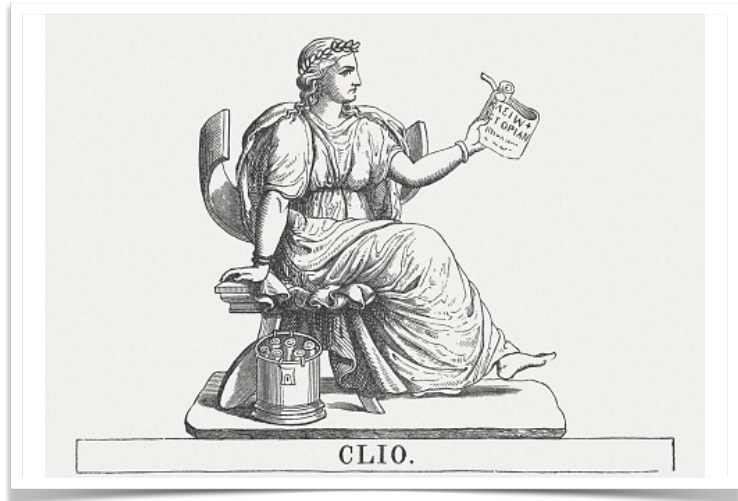
Email: thangen@worchester.edu

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Meets Tues / Thurs 1 pm, S-314

PreReqs: Any two 100-level Hist classes

This course is a 4-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. Most importantly, history is not just a spectator sport; you must speak up in class to get full participation credit. If there are days we meet via Zoom, I 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. After each is graded, post journal entries to your Portfolio site.

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.

Class Participation	On time, Prepared, Strong Discussion Skills	20%
ePortfolio	11 Journal Entries and Portfolio	20%
Paper #1	Source Comparison, due Feb 15	20%
Paper #2	Practice of History, due March 29	20%
Paper #3	Annotated Bibliography, due May 10	20%
	Total	100%

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.

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. If class is cancelled on a day the University is open, I’ll post an announcement on Blackboard.

THAT DARN COVID: All of these plans are subject to change if the University asks us to work remotely or for other public health reasons. I’ll do my best to communicate any changes quickly and clearly to keep us all on track.

4 CREDITS: This class meets 3 hours a week but is worth 4 credits. This means you should plan 1 hour a week for research time, office hour visits, getting Library or Writing Center help, or other course-related tasks on your own. This means independently going above and beyond doing the assigned reading, papers and journal entries.

To succeed in this course, you need to be comfortable using Blackboard and WSU email, including uploading documents and making email attachments. 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. Having a laptop or an internet-connected device larger than a cell phone when we hold in-person class is highly recommended.

Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change; see Blackboard Course News for any updates. Our plan is for in-person instruction unless there is a public health reason to hold it online. As we've seen, this pandemic may obstruct well-laid plans on an individual, class, or university-wide level. If you are quarantined or experiencing symptoms, please stay home for everyone's safety. We can work out attendance alternatives if needed.

#	DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
		UNIT 1 "DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY"		
1	T Jan 18	History Clichés, Myths, and Tropes		
2	Th Jan 20	Portfolio + Textbook Workshop	Have access to a college-level history survey textbook	PreTest by 1/21
3	T Jan 25	Historical Thinking, History Education	Loewen Intro, Wineburg, HT Frameworks	
4	Th Jan 27	Loewen Discussion Day #1	Loewen Ch by assignment	J1 = Fri 1/29
5	T Feb 1	Loewen Discussion Day #2	Loewen Ch by assignment	
6	Th Feb 3	Writing from Sources	Turabian Ch 1-4	J2 = Fri 2/4
7	T Feb 8	Paper 1 Workshop		
8	Th Feb 10	Historiography	Historiography Module - Bbd	J3 = Fri 2/11
		UNIT 2 THE CRAFT OF HISTORY		
9	T Feb 15	Archives and Private Papers	Stowe, "Making Sense of Letters and Diaries" (link)	Paper #1
10	Th Feb 17	Manuscript Collections Workshop Day		J4 = Fri 2/18
11	T Feb 22	Scientific Evidence Guest Speaker	Genetics Packet PDF, Williams 9.6 and 9.7	
12	Th Feb 24	Scientific Evidence Workshop Day		J5 = Fri 2/25
13	T Mar 1	Listening to the Past	Douglas "Radio Comedy" PDF	
14	Th Mar 3	Radio / Recordings Workshop Day	Prep with 45+ minutes of listening; take notes	J6 = Fri 3/4

#	DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
15	T Mar 8	Intro to Government Documents	"GovDocs" PDF + links	
16	Th Mar 10	Government Documents Workshop Day		J7 = Fri 3/11
<i>Mar 14-18 No Class, University Spring Break</i>				
17	T Mar 22	Mapping History	Stephens, "Making Sense of Maps" (link)	
18	Th Mar 24	Maps Workshop Day		J8 = Fri 3/25
UNIT 3 THE HISTORY PROFESSION				
19	T Mar 29	How Historians Map the Past	Gaddis, <i>Landscape of History</i> 1-6	Paper #2
20	Th Mar 31	Molecules with Minds of their Own	Gaddis, <i>Landscape of History</i> 7-8	
21	T Apr 5	Library and Research Day		
22	Th Apr 7	Film as History, History on Film	Gunning, "Making Sense of Films" (link)	J9 = Fri 4/8
23	T Apr 12	History as Current Events	Readings TBA, see Bbd	
24	Th Apr 14	Digital History	Digital History Module - Bbd	J10 = Fri 4/15
25	T Apr 19	Public History	Value of History; NCPH links	
26	Th Apr 21	Historical Memory	Elliott PDF, Theriault PDF	J11 = Fri 4/22
27	T Apr 26	Professional Ethics	Ethics Packet PDF	
28	Th Apr 28	Writing Workshop for Paper 3	Be able to SHARE a draft of your Annotated Bibliography	PostTest by 5/10
	T May 10	(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.