

## Course Overview

HI 200-01 Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr. Tona Hangen

Office: Sullivan 327D x8688

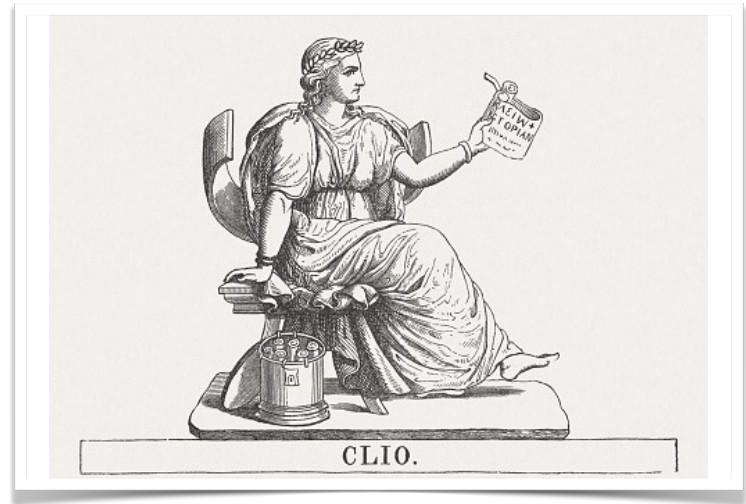
Email: [thangen@worchester.edu](mailto:thangen@worchester.edu)

Voicemail / Text: 617-506-9440

Meets Mon / Wed 12:30 pm, Sullivan 320

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 equipped with 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, 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 or workshop days, with the reading at hand for each class and laptop when requested. Most importantly, history is not a spectator sport; you must speak up and contribute to class to get full participation credit.

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

You’ll write ten **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 have specific writing prompts, while others are open-ended. Each entry should be at least 500 words long. After each is graded and/or revised, post them 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 need to employ full and correct Chicago Style footnotes, 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 less likely to get 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 Office Hours in person, W 3-4:30 and F 1-2:30 pm. Drop in or book an appointment using Calendly: [calendly.com/thangen/office-hours-meeting](https://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/or need an accessibility 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 has to be cancelled on a day the University is open, I’ll post an announcement on Blackboard.

**NOTE:** 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.

Participation	On time, Prepared, Strong Discussion Skills, with Accountability for All 4 Credits of Work	20%
ePortfolio	10 Journal Entries and Portfolio	20%
Paper #1	Source Comparison, due October 2	20%
Paper #2	Practice of History, due November 8	20%
Paper #3	Annotated Bibliography, due December 15	20%
	Total	100%

**4 CREDITS:** This class meets 3 hours a week but is worth 4 credits. This means you should plan 1 full 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 just completing assigned reading, papers and journal entries.

## Technical Specifications

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 in class is highly recommended.

## Syllabus

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

#	DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
		<b>UNIT 1</b>	<b>"DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY"</b>	
1	W Sept 6	Course Intro		PreTest by 9/11
2	M Sept 11	History Clichés, Myths, and Tropes	Bring laptop to class	
3	W Sept 13	Historical Thinking, History Education	Loewen Intro, Wineburg, HT Frameworks. Have access to a college-level history survey textbook during class.	J1 = Fri 9/15
4	M Sept 18	Loewen Discussion Day #1	Loewen Ch by assignment	
5	W Sept 20	Loewen Discussion Day #2	Loewen Ch by assignment	J2 = Fri 9/22
6	M Sept 25	Writing from Sources	Turabian Ch 1-4	
7	W Sept 27	Paper 1 Workshop	Bring laptop to class	J3 = Fri 9/29
		<b>UNIT 2</b>	<b>THE CRAFT OF HISTORY</b>	
8	M Oct 2	Historiography	Historiography Module - Bbd	
9	W Oct 4	Archives and Private Papers	Stowe, "Making Sense of Letters and Diaries" (link)	<b>Paper #1</b>
	<i>M Oct 9</i>	<i>No Class, University Holiday</i>		
10	W Oct 11	Manuscript Collections Workshop Day	Boston Massacre sources in class	J4 = Fri 10/13
11	M Oct 16	Scientific Evidence Guest Speaker	Genetics Packet PDF, Williams 9.6 and 9.7	
12	W Oct 18	Scientific Evidence Workshop Day		J5 = Fri 10/20
13	M Oct 23	Listening to the Past	Douglas "Radio Comedy" PDF	

#	DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
14	W Oct 25	Radio / Recordings Workshop Day	Prep with 45+ minutes of listening; take notes	J6 = Fri 10/27
15	M Oct 30	Mapping History	Stephens, "Making Sense of Maps" (link)	
16	W Nov 1	Maps Workshop Day		J7 = Fri 11/3
<b>UNIT 3 THE HISTORICAL PROFESSION</b>				
17	M Nov 6	How Historians Map the Past	Gaddis, <i>Landscape of History</i> 1-6	
18	W Nov 8	Molecules with Minds of their Own	Gaddis, <i>Landscape of History</i> 7-8	<b>Paper #2</b>
19	M Nov 13	Designing a Research Inquiry	Turabian reading TBA	
20	W Nov 15	Library and Research Day	Meeting Location TBA	J8 = Fri 11/17
21	M Nov 20	Film as History, History on Film	Gunning, "Making Sense of Films" (link)	
	<i>W Nov 22</i>	<i>No Class, University Holiday</i>		
22	M Nov 27	Professional Ethics, History Careers	Ethics Packet PDF	
23	W Nov 29	Public History	Value of History; NCPH links	J9 = Fri 12/1
24	M Dec 4	Historical Memory	Elliott PDF, Theriault PDF	
25	W Dec 6	Writing Workshop for Paper 3	SHARE a draft of your Annotated Bibliography in progress	J10 = Fri Dec 8 PostTest by Mon 12/11
	F Dec 15	Designated Final Exam Date ... but we're not meeting in person	Portfolio & Annotated Bibliography due by NOON, via electronic submission	<b>Paper #3</b>

## 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.

