

Course Overview

HI 411-02 Spring 2017

Instructor: Dr. Tona Hangen
Office: Sullivan 327D, x8688
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Tuesdays 4:30 - 7:30 pm, S-318

PreReqs: HI 103, 104, 111 and 112

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



HI 411: 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. 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

Robert C. Williams, *The Historian's Toolbox: A Student's Guide to the Theory and Craft of History* 3e (M. E. Sharpe, 2011) ISBN 780765620279

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

For this course, you will set up **an online site** using Wordpress, which will serve as both a weekly journal and an ePortfolio for your coursework. You aren't required to make the site public but you must grant me access as a reader so I can follow your journal entries.

You'll write **weekly journal assignments** as posts on your Wordpress site. 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 each Monday by 4:30 pm (i.e. 24 hours before each class meeting).

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, in each class. That said, history is not a spectator sport; you must speak up in class to get full participation credit.

You will write **three papers**, one at the end of each unit. For 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 should be 4-6 pages long (1000 - 15000 words) and 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.

Grading

Class Participation	On time, Prepared, Strong Discussion Skills	20%
ePortfolio	Site with 12 Journal Entries and Portfolio	20%
Paper #1	Source Comparison, due Feb 7	20%
Paper #2	Practice of History, due March 28	20%
Paper #3	Annotated Bibliography, due May 9	20%
	Total	100%

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 during the daytime. 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 those 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.

Since this class only meets once a week, in order to pass the class you must attend at least 85% of the class sessions (this equates to **no more than 2 absences**) and make up all missed work if absent. 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.

In addition to Blackboard, all course news, content and assignments will be posted online at: <http://www.tonahangen.com/wsc/hi411/>

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

Course Syllabus

Journal Due Dates: Mondays 1/23, 1/30, 2/13, 2/21, 2/27, 3/6, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/25, 5/1

#	DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
UNIT 1 "DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY"				
1	Jan 17	Course Intro: Portfolio + Textbook Workshop	Loewen Ch 1	
2	Jan 24	Historical Thinking, History Education	Williams Part I + Loewen, by assignment	
3	Jan 31	Library Day #1, Writing from Sources	Turabian Ch 1-4; Williams Ch 8-9.1	
4	Feb 7	Problems, Solutions, and Historiography	Williams Ch 11-12	Paper #1
UNIT 2 THE PRACTICE OF HISTORY				
5	Feb 14	Government Documents	"GovDocs" PDF + links, Williams 9.2	
6	Feb 21	Archives and Private Papers	Stowe, "Making Sense of Letters/Diaries" (link)	
7	Feb 28	Scientific Evidence	Genetics Packet PDF, Williams 9.6 and 9.7	
8	Mar 7	Sight and Sound	Douglas "Radio Comedy" PDF	
9	Mar 14	Maps and Ephemera	Stephens, "Making Sense of Maps" (link); Williams Ch 9.3 + 16	
Spring Break: March 18-25				
UNIT 3 THE HISTORY PROFESSION				
10	Mar 28	Thinking Like a Historian	Gaddis, <i>Landscape of History</i>	Paper #2
11	Apr 4	Library Day #2, Research Strategies	Williams Ch 10; "Digital Junction" PDF	
12	Apr 11	Public History and Historical Memory	Loewen Ch10, Williams Ch 17; Elliott PDF and Theriault PDF	
13	Apr 18	Film	Gunning, "Making Sense of Films" (link)	
14	Apr 25	Digital History, Portfolio Workshop	Williams Ch 19-20; Links online	
15	May 2	Professional Ethics, Course Wrap-Up	Williams Ch 13 and 21	
	May 9	(no class)		Paper #3