

## Course Overview

HI 411-01 Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Tona Hangen  
Office: Sullivan 327D, x8688  
Email: [thangen@worchester.edu](mailto:thangen@worchester.edu)

Tues/Thurs 1:00 - 2:15, 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 by Friday at midnight on assigned dates.

**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.

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 - 15000 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.

## 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 5	20%
Paper #2	Practice of History, due Nov 14	20%
Paper #3	Annotated Bibliography, due Dec 14	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 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.

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 most up-to-date information.

## Course Syllabus

#	DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
<b>UNIT 1 "DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY"</b>				
1	Th Sept 7	Course Intro & PreTest	Loewen Ch 1	
2	T Sept 12	Portfolio + Textbook Workshop	Williams Part 1	<b>Bring laptops</b>
3	Th Sept 14	Historical Thinking, History Education	Loewen Ch 4, 12, 13	J1 = Fri 9/15
4	T Sept 19	Loewen Discussion Day #1	Loewen Ch by assignment	
5	Th Sept 21	Loewen Discussion Day #2	Loewen Ch by assignment	J2 = Fri 9/22
6	T Sept 26	Library Day #1	Williams Ch 8-9.1	
7	Th Sept 28	Writing from Sources	Turabian Ch 1-4	J3 = Fri 9/29
8	T Oct 3	Problems, Solutions, and Historiography	Williams Ch 11-12	
9	Th Oct 5	Loewen Discussion Day #3	Loewen Ch by assignment	<b>Paper #1</b>
<b>UNIT 2 THE PRACTICE OF HISTORY</b>				
10	T Oct 10	Scientific Evidence Workshop Day	<b>Bring laptops</b>	
11	Th Oct 12	Scientific Evidence - Guest Discussion	Genetics Packet PDF, Williams 9.6 and 9.7	J4 = Fri 10/13
12	T Oct 17	Archives and Private Papers	Stowe, "Making Sense of Letters / Diaries" (link)	
13	Th Oct 19	Manuscript Collections Workshop Day	<b>Bring laptops</b>	J5 = Fri 10/20
14	T Oct 24	Sight and Sound	Douglas "Radio Comedy" PDF	
15	Th Oct 26	Radio / Recordings Workshop Day	<b>Bring laptops</b>	J6 = Fri 10/27
16	T Oct 31	Intro to Government Documents and Citations	"GovDocs" PDF + links, Williams 9.2	
17	Th Nov 2	Government Documents Workshop Day	<b>Bring laptops</b>	J7 = Fri 11/3
18	T Nov 7	Maps and Ephemera	Stephens, "Making Sense of Maps" (link); Williams Ch 9.3 + 16	
19	Th Nov 9	Maps Workshop Day	<b>Bring laptops</b>	J8 = Fri 11/10

#	DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
		<b>UNIT 3</b>	<b>THE HISTORY PROFESSION</b>	
20	T Nov 14	Thinking Like a Historian	Gaddis, <i>Landscape of History</i>	<b>Paper #2</b>
21	Th Nov 16	Library Day #2	Williams Ch 10; "Digital Junction" PDF. <b>Bring laptops</b>	J9 = Fri 11/17
22	T Nov 21	Film as History, History on Film	Gunning, "Making Sense of Films" (link)	
<i>Thanksgiving Break, No Class 11/23</i>				
23	T Nov 28	Digital History	Williams Ch 19-20; Links online	
24	Th Nov 30	Portfolio Workshop / Intro to Public History	<b>Bring laptops.</b> Reading: Loewen Ch 10, Williams Ch 17	J10 = Fri 12/1
25	T Dec 5	Historical Memory	Reading: Elliott PDF, Theriault PDF. <b>Bring laptops</b>	
26	Th Dec 7	Professional Ethics / Paper Workshop	Williams Ch 13 and 21 <b>Bring PRINTED draft of Annotated Bibliography</b>	J11 = Fri 12/8
	Th Dec 14	(no class) - designated final exam date	Portfolio & Annotated Bibliography due by NOON	<b>Paper #3</b>