

History 253.01E
READING AND WRITING HISTORY
Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Judy Ann Ford
Office Location: SS 150
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials--Required:

John H. Arnold. *History: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. ISBN: 019285352-X.

Kate L. Turabian. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 7th ed. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2007. ISBN: 100226823377.

Georg G. Iggers. *Historiography in the Twentieth Century: From Scientific Objectivity to the Post-Modern Challenge*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 1997. ISBN: 9780819567666.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the discipline of history as it is taught at the college level. Students will discover how and why historians debate issues of evidence and interpretation. By studying the “history of history,” students will learn to distinguish between various schools or styles of academic history; to improve reading, note-taking, and library skills; and to formulate meaningful thesis statements. Students will apply the lessons of the course in a hands-on research experience which will result in the preparation and presentation of a finished historical essay in approved scholarly form.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of historiography, that is, a familiarity with a range of historical methods, theories, and schools of interpretation.
2. Students will be able to research and write a thesis-driven paper of at least twelve pages on an historical topic, using appropriate sources.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Participation

Attendance at all class meetings is strongly encouraged. You are responsible for all material covered in our class meetings, regardless of your physical presence in the room. Although the course will be taught primarily through lectures, there will also be classroom exercises.

Assessment

A. Exams

There will be three exams. Each will consist of three parts: multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and an essay. The exams will draw upon the lectures and all assigned reading material. Answers must be written in ink either in a blue book or on stapled paper. No work in pencil will be accepted.

Students who miss the exams, for any reason, may make them up at the end of the semester during the final exam period.

B. Research Project

During the semester, students will submit nine assignments linked to stages in the research process. The ninth will consist of a research paper with a cover page, body, notes, and bibliography, in typewriter-sized font, with one-inch margins, in which the body and notes together constitute a minimum of twelve pages.

These assignments assess skills that should be mastered sequentially. If any of the assignments does not receive a passing grade it must be resubmitted until it does receive a passing grade. The highest grade will be counted.

Please note: any assignment submitted under the circumstance in which any of the previous assignments have not yet earned a passing grade will automatically earn a zero. Even if revised and resubmitted, the highest grade which may be earned on such assignments is 50% of the total points available for that assignment.

There is often a short turn-around time between the return of one assignment and the due date of the next. It is the student's responsibility to submit assignments and collect graded material in a timely manner. If students are absent when an assignment is due, they may submit those assignments as email attachments. If students are absent when graded material is returned, it is their responsibility to contact the instructor by visiting or phoning during office hours, or by emailing, to obtain their graded work.

GRADING

Exams	450 points
<i>150 points each</i>	
Assignments one, two, and three	75
<i>25 points each</i>	
Assignments four, five, and six	90
<i>30 points each</i>	
Assignment seven	40
Assignment eight	45
Assignment nine (research paper)	<u>300 points</u>
TOTAL	1000 points

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

900-1000	=	A
800-899.9	=	B
700-799.9	=	C
600-699.9	=	D
599.9 or less	=	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Word Processing:

You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare the proposal and research paper. You should be able to insert footnotes in your papers.

eCollege:

This course is web-enhanced through eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access eCollege you will need an internet connection, preferably high speed, and your CWID and password. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, please contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. eCollege will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. In addition, eCollege will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you cannot see me during office hours, please send me an email so that we can make an appointment. I am quite happy to see students at any time as long as I don't have a prior commitment.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

Academic Honesty

In all courses, I expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask me.

Writing Center

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they

will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

WEEK ONE

Aug. 27 Introduction; discuss syllabus in E-College
Aug. 29 Arnold, ch. 1

WEEK TWO

Sept. 3 University is closed
Sept. 5 Arnold, chs. 2 & 3

WEEK THREE

Sept. 10 Arnold, chs. 4 & 5
Assignment One due: Photocopy of reference entry on research topic
Sept. 12 Arnold, chs. 6 & 7

WEEK FOUR

Sept. 17 Test One (on Arnold)
Assignment Two due: Five potential research questions on topic

Sept. 19 Workshop potential research questions

WEEK FIVE

Sept. 24 Turabian, chs. 1 & 2
Assignment Three due: Research proposal

Sept. 26 Turabian, ch. 3

WEEK SIX

Oct. 1 Workshop on Commerce finding aids

Oct. 3 Turabian, ch. 4

WEEK SEVEN

Oct. 8 Turabian, ch. 5
Assignment Four due: Working Bibliography

Oct. 10 Turabian, chs. 6, 7, and 8

WEEK EIGHT

Oct. 15 Turabian, chs. 9, 10, & 11
Assignment Five due: Revised Working Bibliography

Oct. 17 Turabian, chs. 12, 13, and 14

WEEK NINE

Oct. 22 Turabian, part II; practicum on citation

Oct. 24 Practicum on citation continued

WEEK TEN

Oct. 29 Class discussion of projects
Assignment Six due: Edited Revised Working Bibliography

Oct. 31 Test Two (on Turabian, parts I & II)

WEEK ELEVEN

Nov. 5 Iggers, chs. 1 & 2

Nov. 7 Iggers, chs. 3 & 4

WEEK TWELVE

Nov. 12 Iggers, chs. 5 & 6
Assignment Seven due: Five page draft with notes (no bibliography)

Nov. 14 Iggers, ch. 7

WEEK THIRTEEN

Nov. 19 Iggers, chs. 8 & 9
Nov. 21 University closes at noon

WEEK FOURTEEN

Nov. 26 Iggers, chs. 10 & 11
Nov. 28 Iggers, Concluding Remarks and Epilogue
Assignment Eight due: One page introduction with notes

WEEK FIFTEEN

Dec. 3 Test Three (on Iggers)
Dec. 5 Class discussion of projects

WEEK SIXTEEN

Dec. 10 Final exam period—Assignment Nine due: Research paper