

History 253.01E
READING AND WRITING HISTORY
Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. Judy Ann Ford
Office Location: SS 113
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9:15 AM to 10:30 AM; Tues. & Thurs. 3:15 – 4:45 PM;
or by appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials--Required:

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition (University of Chicago Press, 2013). ISBN-10: 0226816389

John Tosh, *The Pursuit of History*, 5th (Pearson, 2010). ISBN-10: 0582894123

James M. Banner, Jr., *Being a Historian: An Introduction to the Professional World of History* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). ISBN-13: 978-1107697287

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. The course will be taught primarily through lectures, and 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 week.

B. Graded citation exercise

After discussing and work-shopping the Turabian style of citation, there will be a graded in-class application exercise. Students may use Turabian and should bring their copy of the book to class.

C. Research Project

During the semester, students will submit seven assignments linked to stages in the research process. The seventh 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. No assignment may be submitted until the previous assignment has been graded and returned. Assignments submitted by the due date will be graded within one week. Assignments submitted late will be graded at the earliest opportunity of the instructor, but may take longer than one week. 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 | 300 points |
| <i>three @ 100 points each</i> | |
| ○ Graded citation exercise | 100 |
| ○ Assignments one, two, three,
four, five, and six | 300 |
| <i>50 points each</i> | |
| ○ Assignment seven | 300 |

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

Students with Disabilities:

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
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

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

Jan. 13 Introduction; discuss syllabus in E-College

Jan. 15 Workshop: Historians Make Arguments, Part I

WEEK TWO

Jan. 20 Workshop: Historians Make Arguments, Part II

Jan. 22 Workshop: Journal Articles and Reference Entries

WEEK THREE

Jan. 27 Library: Reference Entry Search
Research Assignment One due: Reference Entry

Jan. 29 Turabian, chs. 1 & 2
Workshop on Research Questions

WEEK FOUR

- Feb. 3 Tosh, chs. 1 & 2 (Note: please study the terms defined in the margins.)
- Feb. 5 Tosh, chs. 3 & 4
Research Assignment Two due: Three potential research questions on topic

WEEK FIVE

- Feb. 10 Turabian, chs. 3, 4, & 5
- Feb. 12 Workshop on Commerce finding aids

WEEK SIX

- Feb. 17 Tosh, ch. 5
Research Assignment Three due: Research proposal
- Feb. 19 Workshop on reading primary sources, Part I

WEEK SEVEN

- Feb. 24 Workshop on reading primary sources, Part II
- Feb. 26 Workshop on reading primary sources, Part III
Research Assignment Four due: Working Bibliography

WEEK EIGHT

- March 3 Exam One: Tosh chs 1 – 5; Turabian, chs. 1 - 5
- March 5 Turabian, Part II

WEEK NINE SPRING BREAK

WEEK TEN

- March 17 Workshop on citation, Part I
- March 19 Workshop on citation, Part II

WEEK ELEVEN

- March 24 Graded citation exercise

March 26 Tosh, chs. 6 & 7
Research Assignment Five due: Edited Revised Working Bibliography

WEEK TWELVE

March 31 Tosh, chs. 8 & 9

April 2 Tosh, chs. 10, 11, and “Conclusion”

WEEK THIRTEEN

April 7 Exam Two: Tosh, chs. 6 – 11 and “Conclusion”

April 9 Turabian, chs. 6 - 14

WEEK FOURTEEN

April 14 Banner, chs. 1 and 2
Assignment Six due: Five page draft with notes (no bibliography)

April 16 Banner, chs. 3, 4, and 5

WEEK FIFTEEN

April 21 Banner, chs. 6, 7, and 8

April 23 Class discussion of papers

WEEK SIXTEEN

April 28 Research or writing questions?

April 30 Research Assignment Seven due: Research paper

WEEK SEVENTEEN

May 5th Final exam period (8:00 – 10:00 AM): Exam Three: Banner, whole book