HIST 489(#81427)
ETWMP Internship
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2015

Location and Time: TBA
Instructor: Dr. Andrew C. Baker
Office Location: Ferguson 106
Office Hours: M/W 1-5:30 pm, T/R 3:30-5:30 pm
Office Phone: 903-468-8742
Office Fax: (903) 468-3230
University Email Address: Andrew.Baker@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email

Required Materials
All course readings and materials can be found on the eCollege website

Course Description
Internship in the recording, analyzing, and transcribing oral history interviews with veterans and other impacted by war. Students will be trained in both the theory and practice of oral history.

University Catalogue Description
Individualized instruction/research at an advanced level in a specialized content area under the direction of a faculty member.

Student Learning Outcomes
The ETWMP trains and equips project interns to gather, transcribe, and interpret oral history interviews.

Course Requirements
Interviews
Students will be conducting and transcribing two mock interviews and four live interviews during the semester.

Research Journal
Every week during the semester, students will compose at least one typed page of reflections on their work for the course. This includes analysis of conducted interviews, responses to class readings, and more general

Syllabus/schedule subject to change
comments. This exercise is designed to encourage reflexive practice, applied theory, and independent thought. You will submit these journals each week.

Class Discussion
Much of the class time will be spent discussing weekly readings. Students are expected to contribute to classroom discussions. Thoughtful participation means more than talking frequently, although this is encouraged. It means demonstrating both a knowledge of and a willingness to think critically about the assigned readings. Students are encouraged to engage not only with the professor and the material, but also with each other where appropriate. Students must remain a respect for their colleagues at all times.

Final Paper:
Option A: Write a thesis-driven, analytical paper examining the four interviews you conducted in light of one of our week’s discussions (narrative, memory, trauma, or confession). The paper should be eight to ten double-spaced pages. Follow the Chicago Manual of style’s formatting guide.

Option B: Write a secondary-level lesson plan that employs at least two of the interviews you conducted as primary sources. Your plan must include context, measurable objectives, lecture notes, a discussion guide, and both objective and subjective assessment tools.

Grading
As this is a professional internship, your grade will primarily be assessed in a subjective and holistic fashion. It will be composed of the following elements.

Classwork (1/4)
- Completing the assigned readings
- Participating in class discussions
- Engaging with and using the materials in your research

Professionalism (1/4)
- Punctuality and reliability
- Preparation and communication
- Representing the University (dress, speech, respect for veterans)
- Following established ETWMP policy
  - Photos and Paperwork

The Interviews (1/2)
- Question Lists
- Interviews (Questioning, Engagement, Silence)
  - Improvement is as important as achievement
- Research Journal Entries
Any significant breach of professionalism including but not limited to failing to keep an appointment with a veteran without notice, consciously offending or disrespecting a veteran, failing to submit required paperwork, or publicly revealing private information will result in a significant drop in your grade. Any student that does not complete all assigned interviews will lose a full letter grade for each interview missed. If you anticipate or experience any difficulties with the scheduling of your interviews, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Communication and Support**
All course communication will come through your TAMU-C email account and the ETWMP Facebook page. You are expected to check this each at least two times a day. All non-emergency communication with Dr. Baker should go to Andrew.Baker@tamuc.edu. I do not check my email between 5 pm on Saturday and 7 am Monday, so plan accordingly. In the case of an academic emergency, contact me via phone at 903-468-8742. A failure of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part. In case of a genuine emergency, dial 911.

**Graduate Assistant:** Austin Baxley is the graduate assistant for this course. He will be handling equipment checkout, scheduling, paperwork, and any other logistical issues. He is your first point of contact for any issues of policy or procedure. He is my representative.

**Special Collections Staff**
This semester we will be working with Andrea Weddle (special collections) and Adam Northam (digital collections). They will be archiving all interviews, documents, and artifacts produced by the ETWMP during the semester at their office in the fourth floor of the library. It behooves you to get to know them if you do not yet already.

**Course Policies and Procedures**
**Attendance**
This class meets once a week (Date and time TBA) to discuss oral history theory, interpretation, and practice. For each absence after the first, your final grade will drop five percentage points. The only exceptions are for university approved absences and absences due to a scheduling conflict with an interview appointment.

**Syllabus Change Policy**
The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus
during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

**Social Media and Oral History**
Any and all oral history interviews, scanned materials, photographs, and related information produced and/or collected through the student’s participation in the ETWMP are the property of the ETWMP and Texas A&M-Commerce. As such, you may NOT place any of these materials on your personal or professional social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Additionally, in order to protect the privacy of veterans and to reinforce student’s role as professional historians, students should refrain from posting any but the most general information about their interview activities related to the ETWMP.

**University Specific Procedures**

**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 current Student Guidebook).

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

**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
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu
Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

**Nondiscrimination Notice**
Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**Course Calendar**

**Class Schedule**

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<th>Week 1:</th>
<th>What is Oral History? What has it been? Why do we do it?</th>
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| **Readings:** | Syllabus  
The Belmont Report ([online](#))  
Oral History IRB Policy ([online](#)) |
| **Homework:** | You must complete the University IRB training by the end of this week. |

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<th>Week 2:</th>
<th>Subjectivity and Intersubjectivity</th>
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<td><strong>Homework:</strong></td>
<td>Diagram of an Oral History Interview Revisit #1 with Reflection</td>
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<th>Week 3:</th>
<th>Performance, Narrative, and Transcription</th>
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| **Readings:** | Hayden White, *Tropics of Discourse*, Chapter 3 ([online](#))  
Valerie Yow, *Transcription Guide* ([online](#)) |
| **Homework:** | Mock Interview #1 (life history) with Reflection |

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<th>Week 4:</th>
<th>Questions, Silence, and Confession</th>
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| **Homework:** | Submit question list for first oral history via email  
Interview Revisit #2 Transcript due with Reflection |

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<th>Week 5:</th>
<th>Protecting Yourself and the Narrator</th>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>Oral History Release, Deed of Gift, NTDC Written Consent Form, Interview Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homework:</strong></td>
<td>Mock Interview #2 (moments of triumph and failure)</td>
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| Week 6: | No Class – Individual Meetings as Necessary |
| **Homework:** | Conduct and accompany first oral histories and Write Reflection |

| Week 7: | Memory and Communities of Memory |

Homework: Conduct and accompany first oral histories and Write Reflection
Transcription of first oral history due, submit via email

Week 8: No Class – Individual Meetings as Necessary
Homework: Conduct second oral history and Write Reflection

Week 9: Halftime Discussions
Readings: Reread reflections and review transcripts up to this point and bring copies to class
Homework: Conduct second oral history and write Reflection
Transcription of second oral history due, submit via email

Week 10: Trauma and Grief
Homework: Submit question list for third oral history

Week 11: No Class – Individual Meetings as Necessary
Homework: Conduct Third Oral History and Write Reflection

Week 12: Halftime Discussions
Readings: Review reflections and review transcripts up to this point and bring copies to class
Homework: Conduct Third Oral History and Write Reflection
Transcription of third oral history due, submit via email

Week 13: No Class – Individual Meetings as Necessary
Homework: Conduct Fourth Oral History and Write Reflection

Week 14: The Politics and Social Implications of Oral History
Homework: Transcription of fourth oral history due, submit via email

End of Semester Celebration: Date and Time TBA