

HIST 3300: Historical Methods and Research

Introduction:

In this course students will explore the core elements of historical research and writing. In addition to analyzing and synthesizing both primary and secondary sources, students will also be introduced to historiography (how previous historians have approached the study of history). Through these endeavors, students will be introduced to a myriad of future career opportunities.

Instructor: Dr. M. Rhys Dotson

Email: mdotson@uttyler.edu

Office: CAS 117

Office Hours: T/R 7:45 am to 9:15 am

***Note on Office Hours:** If you need me outside of these hours, I am willing to make accommodations, within reason, to meet those needs. Email is the best way to reach me. During the week, I will return emails within 24 hours and on the weekend, within 48 hours.*

Required Texts:

Popkin, Jeremy D. *From Herodotus to H-Net: The Story of Historiography*. 2nd Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Presnell, Jenny L. *The Information-Literate Historian: A Guide to Research for History Students*. 3rd Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

***Note on Required Texts:** Additional readings will be provided by the instructor throughout the semester. These readings will be available within the weekly modules on Canvas.*

Course Objectives:

Following the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Outline the overarching trends in historiography
- Discern the differences between primary and secondary sources
- Conduct original, historical research
- Produce a properly edited and sourced research paper

Expectations and Etiquette:

I expect every student in the course to maintain respect for one another. Disagreements are not forbidden, but they must be addressed in a respectful and thoughtful manner. If I determine that your behavior in the course is inappropriate, you will be forewarned. If the behavior is not corrected, you will be forwarded to the appropriate campus administrators and/or the campus police.

Methods of Evaluation:

Completing an original academic research paper is the goal of this course. There will be assignments throughout the semester that guide you to your final draft. As this task can feel overwhelming and/or daunting, your attendance and participation in this class is *required*.

First Exploratory Essay:

In a four-to-five-page double-spaced essay, you will explore the following questions:

- How and why did you get interested in history?
- Why did you choose to be a history major?
- What events, time period, people, etc. of history interest you the most and why?
- What potential research paper topics are you considering? What are the potential pitfalls or benefits of each?

Topic Proposal & Research Questions:

This is one of the most important assignments for this course. You need to think hard about what interests you about history. Writing a research paper can be tough. Therefore, it is important that you select a topic that is dynamic and interesting to you.

With that being said, there must be some parameters to the paper. You must select a modern topic (between 1877-2000). Your topics can pertain to political, military, social, or cultural history. We will discuss potential topics during our class lectures.

Your proposal must be at least five pages and written in essay format. In this essay, please explain what you plan to write on and why. Please don't simply say that you find the topic interesting. Think about why you find it interesting and what you hope to find through your research.

- Questions to consider in your proposal:
 - What is your topic and why have you chosen it?
 - **Make sure that your topic fits the class parameters AND is not too broad**
 - Are there enough accessible primary sources to form the core of your paper?
 - Are these sources in a language you can read?
 - What sources, primary and secondary, have you located so far?
 - Are these sources you can access?
 - Is the topic sufficiently narrow so that you can say something new or approach it from a different/new angle?
 - Are you interested in the topic and is it something you are willing to work on for an entire semester?
 - Research Questions:
 - Along with your proposal, you will list research questions. These do not count toward the proposal's paper length. (Note: we will discuss this in class prior to the due date.)

Please Note: Dr. Dotson reserves the right to veto or edit any and all topics. Students who do not change their topic as advised by Dr. Dotson will lose significant points or receive a zero.

Bibliography

Citing sources is an important skill for the historian. To hone this skill, you will create a professional bibliography of primary and secondary sources for your paper. This must be formatted following the Turabian or Chicago Manual of Style guidelines.

Your research paper **MUST** have at least seven primary sources, seven professional journal articles, and ten secondary sources. All of these must be relevant to your topic. Significant points will be deducted for each missing source and/or if a source is irrelevant. Further discussion of how to find relevant sources will occur during class lectures.

Book Review:

One of the most important things historians do is write reviews of academic work. Therefore, you will write one book review in this course. Choose one of your secondary sources that influenced your research the most. In a one and a half to two-page paper, write a professional and analytical review of the book.

Primary Source Evaluation:

As we will go over in class, evaluating sources is one of the most important skills a historian must have. This assignment enables you to find and utilize appropriate primary sources for your research project.

Rough Draft of Research Paper:

Your rough draft should be *at least* twelve double-spaced pages in twelve-point Times New Roman font. Though this is a rough draft, it should be polished. Make sure to proofread your paper multiple times. Essays strewn with grammatical errors will lose points. Finally, you must also include a cover page and a bibliography with the rough draft, but please be aware neither of those items count towards the page requirement.

Final Research Paper:

It is expected that the final draft of the paper will be between sixteen and twenty-five double-spaced pages in twelve-point Times New Roman font. It should contain a cover page, footnotes or endnotes, and a bibliography. Please note, these items do ***not*** count towards the overall page count of the assignment. Essays must demonstrate that the author has carefully read the revision advice provided by Dr. Dotson from the rough draft. **Those who do not make the necessary edits laid out by Dr. Dotson on the rough draft will result in an automatic F (59.4%) on the assignment.**

Since the final drafts are due during finals week, no late submissions will be accepted.

Research Presentation:

Being able to present and explain your research is a key part of being a historian. Therefore, you will present your project to the class. Your presentation must include:

- Why you choose your topic?

- What arguments did you make?
- Three main points you used to support your argument.
- What kind of sources did you use?
- What challenges did you encounter when looking for primary and/or secondary sources?
- If you were to tackle this topic again, what would you do differently?
- If you had more time, what would you explore more?

I expect the presentation to include ten slides. It is expected that you will use programs like Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Slides.

Second Exploratory Essay:

Within a one and half to two-page essay, you will reflect upon your experience and work during the semester by addressing the following questions:

- Who are you as a historian?
- What is it about history that you do (and do not) like?
- What do you wish you would have done differently in this course/for this research project?
- What would you like to do with the remainder of your education and with history after graduation?

Notes for All Assignments:

- All due dates are listed on Canvas
- For each assignment listed above, failure to cite your sources—primary or secondary—wherever you use them will result in ***an automatic F (59.4%) for the assignment.*** Remember: you ***must always cite your sources.***
- Failure to use Chicago/Turabian citation on the final paper will result in ***an automatic F (59.4%) for the final paper.***
- All assignments, with the exception of the presentation, ***must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document.***
- Any and all missed assignments will result in an automatic zero.
- There are no make-up assignments.

Grade Distribution:

Assignments – 20%

Rough Draft – 20%

Final Paper – 35%

Presentation – 15%

Attendance – 10%

Grade Breakdown:

- A: ≥ 89.5
B: 79.5 – 89.4
C: 69.5 – 79.4
D: 59.5 – 69.4
F: 59.4 or below

Note: At the end of the semester, final grades will not be rounded up.

Class Schedule:

Week 1:

- August 22 – Syllabus Review
August 24 – Be prepared to discuss Presnell – Ch. 1 & Popkin – Ch. 1

Week 2:

- August 29 – Librarian Nicholas Bambach
First Exploratory Essay due by 11:59 pm
August 31 – Be prepared to discuss Presnell – Ch. 2-4

Week 3:

- September 5 – Be prepared to discuss Popkin – Ch. 2-4
September 7 – “How to Write a Proposal”

Week 4:

- September 12 – Be prepared to discuss Presnell – Ch. 5-7
September 14 – **Topic Proposals due by 11:59 pm**

Week 5:

- September 19 – Be prepared to discuss Presnell – Ch. 9 & 10
September 21 – Be prepared to discuss Popkin – Ch. 5 & 6

Primary Source Evaluation due by 11:59 pm

Week 6:

September 26 – Be prepared to discuss Presnell – Ch. 11 and Popkin Ch. 7

September 28 – **Bibliography due on October 1 by 11:59 pm**

Week 7:

October 3 – Be prepared to discuss Popkin – Ch. 8

October 5 – Class Discussion

Week 8: RESEARCH AND WRITING – NO CLASS

October 10 –

October 12 –

Week 9: RESEARCH AND WRITING – NO CLASS

October 17 –

October 19 –

Week 10: RESEARCH AND WRITING – NO CLASS

October 24 –

October 26 – **Book Review due on October 29 by 11:59 pm**

Week 11: RESEARCH AND WRITING – NO CLASS

October 31 –

November 2 –

Week 12: RESEARCH AND WRITING – NO CLASS

November 7 –

November 9 –

Week 13:

November 14 – Paper Presentations

November 16 – Paper Presentations

Rough Draft due on Sunday November 19 by 11:59 pm

Week 14: THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASSES

Week 15:

November 28 – Paper Presentations

November 30 – Paper Presentations

Second Exploratory Essay due on December 3 by 11: 59 pm

Week 16: FINALS WEEK – NO CLASS

December 7 – **Final Draft due by 11:59 pm**

UT Tyler Honor Code:

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities:

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this [link](#).

Campus Carry:

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available by clicking this [link](#).

UT Tyler - A Tobacco-Free University:

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit this [link](#).

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies:

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or

by clicking this [link](#). Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail, or Credit/No Credit
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid State-Mandated Course Drop Policy ^[1]_[SEP] Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). ^[1]_[SEP] Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services:

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit the following [site](#) and fill out the New Student application.

The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR [webpage](#), come by the SAR office, located in the University Center (UC 3150), or call 903.566.7079.

Religious Observances:

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities:

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time, the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct:

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

If the professor determines you have engaged in cheating within the course, you will automatically fail the assignment or exam. If a second offense occurs, you will receive an automatic failing grade for the course. There are **no** exceptions to this policy.

- "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
 - Copying from another student's test paper
 - Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test
 - Failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test
 - Possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes." The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test
 - Using, buying, stealing, transporting, or solicitation in whole or part of the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program

- Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority
- Discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination
- Divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors have designated that examinations are not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student
- Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment
- Paying or offering money or other valuable things to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program
- Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit
- Taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of the University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct
- Misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially
- "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.
- "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

UT Tyler Resources for Students:

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995) or writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964) or tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center (RBN 4021) is an open-access computer lab for math students with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

Important COVID-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories:

Students are expected to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its Honor Code and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, digestive issues (e.g. nausea, diarrhea), or a higher than normal temperature should stay home and are encouraged to use the UT Tyler COVID-19 Information and Procedures website to review protocols, check symptoms, and report possible exposure.

Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center (UC) 3150 or call 903.566.7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Recording of Class Sessions:

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.