

# HIST 3300: Historical Methods & 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).

**Instructor:** Dr. M. Rhys Dotson

**Email:** mdotson@uttyler.edu

**Office:** CAS 117

**Office Hours:** MWF 9:00 – 10:00 *or* by appointment

**Note on emails:** If you reach out to me during the week, I will do my best to respond to you within 24 hours. If you contact me during the weekend *or* during a scheduled university break, I will do my best to respond to you within 48 hours.

## Required Text:

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.

## Course Objectives:

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

- Discern the differences between primary and secondary sources
- Conduct original, historical research
- Provide quality feedback and edits to academic writings
- Produce a properly edited and sourced research paper

## Expectations and Etiquette:

It is expected that everyone in this course, including the instructor, will maintain respect for one another. I encourage you to form your own thoughts surrounding the course material, but please note not everyone will share *all* of your sentiments. It is okay to disagree with someone, but it *will* be done respectfully and thoughtfully.

If the instructor determines that your behavior is inappropriate, you will be forwarded to the appropriate campus administrator 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*.

**Assignments (20%)** – Assignments include, but are not limited to, the completion of a paper proposal, the submission of a working bibliography, class attendance, and the submission of two formal, written reviews of a classmate's research.

**Paper Presentation (20%)** – Each student will present their research to the class. Students are *required* to provide a copy of their research one week prior to their assigned presentation date. It is expected that presentations will range from eight to twelve minutes in length.

**Final Paper (60%)** – A final draft of the research paper will be submitted on Canvas no later than 11:59 pm on Monday, April 28. The final paper *must* be between sixteen and twenty-five pages, in Times New Roman 12-point font, and with one-inch margins. The final draft will include a cover page, footnotes/endnotes, and a bibliography. Please note, these items *do not* count towards the overall page length of the paper.

All papers *must* follow the Turabian/Chicago format. One letter grade will be deducted for *every* calendar day the paper is late.

### **Grade Scale:**

A:  $\geq 89.5$   
B: 79.5 – 89.4  
C: 69.5 – 79.4  
D: 59.5 – 69.4  
F:  $59.4 \leq$

### **Key Dates\*:**

January 13: First Day of Class  
January 20: MLK Day/Campus Closed  
February 7: Paper Proposal Due  
February 14: Bibliography Due  
March 17-21: Spring Break  
April 28: Final Paper Due

\* See Canvas for presentation dates and formal reviews.

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

### **Artificial Intelligence (AI) & This Course:**

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is *not* permitted at all.