

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).

Instructor: Dr. M. Rhys Dotson

Email: mdotson@uttyler.edu

Office: CAS 117

Office Hours: MWF 8:00-9:00 **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 on 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*. 9th ed. University of Chicago Press, 2018.

Course Objectives:

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

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

Expectations and Etiquette:

Everyone, including the professor, in this course is expected to demonstrate mutual respect for one another. I encourage you to develop your own ideas and viewpoints on topics discussed in class; however, it's essential to understand that not everyone will share your perspective. Disagreements are permitted, as long as they are communicated respectfully and thoughtfully.

Should the professor deem your conduct inappropriate, you will be referred to the appropriate campus administrator and/or campus police.

Methods of Evaluation:

The end result of this course is completing an original academic research paper. There will be assignments throughout the semester to guide you through to your final draft.

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

Attendance (10%) — Class attendance will be recorded during every class meeting. If students are *more than* 10 minutes late to class, they will be marked as absent. To account for emergencies and/or illnesses, each student receives *three* excused absences. If a student will miss a class due to a university-sponsored event, they *must* notify the professor *in advance*. Missing class for a university-sponsored event does *not* count towards the excused absences.

Following a missed class, students are *not* required to provide the professor with a doctor's note and/or any other forms of documentation.

Paper Presentation (20%) — Each student will present their research to the class. Students are *required* to provide a copy of their research paper one week prior to their assigned presentation date. Failure to do so will result in the reduction of this grade by 10 points/day.

Final Paper (50 %) — A final draft of the research paper will be submitted to Canvas no later than 11:59 pm on Monday, December 7. One letter grade will be deducted for *every* calendar day the paper is late.

The final paper *must* be at least sixteen pages and should not exceed twenty-five pages. Additionally, papers are *required* to be in Times New Roman 12-point font, have one-inch margins, and include a cover page, footnotes or 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. Students are *required* to submit their work as a Microsoft Word document. *No other formats will be accepted.*

Note: Any use of AI will be result in an automatic zero on the assignment.

Grade Scale:

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

Key Dates:

August 24:	First Day of Class
September 7:	Labor Day/No Class
September 11:	Paper Proposals Due
September 25:	Bibliography Due
November 23-27:	Thanksgiving Break/No Class
December 7:	Final Paper Due

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

Class Schedule at a Glance:

Week 1 — August 24 — Course Introductions & How to Approach Research

Week 2 — August 31 — Outlining Expectations for Presentations & Formal Reviews

Week 3 — September 7 — Independent Research

Week 4 — September 14 — Independent Research

Week 5 — September 21 — Independent Research

Week 6 — September 28 — Independent Research

Week 7 — October 5 — Independent Research

Week 8 — October 12 — Paper Presentations & Formal Peer Reviews

Week 9 — October 19 — Paper Presentations & Formal Peer Reviews

Week 10 — October 26 — Paper Presentations & Formal Peer Reviews

Week 11 — November 2 — Paper Presentations & Formal Peer Reviews

Week 12 — November 9 — Paper Presentations & Formal Peer Reviews

Week 13 — November 16 — Paper Presentations & Formal Peer Reviews

Week 14 — November 23 — Thanksgiving Break - Campus Closed

Week 15 — November 30 — Paper Presentations & Formal Peer Reviews

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.