

HIST 5399 Graduate Independent Study

Long Summer 2026

Dr. Mandy Link

Virtual Office Hours: By appointment

Email: mlink@uttyler.edu or via Canvas

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide graduate students with the ability to formulate a graduate level reading list based on their field of interest that will be approved by Dr. Link.

The student will produce a semester long research paper based on graduate level research (a thoughtful synthesis of secondary and primary sources). The topic of the research project is to be determined by the student in consultation with Dr. Link prior to the start of the course.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- analyze significant issues, trends and developments in the field of reading they have selected
- analyze significant shifts in historiography
- make a clearly-written and clearly-presented argument, including a thesis and sufficient and well-used supporting detail
- to demonstrate a heightened ability to synthesize and analyze class material, readings, and external research

Required Readings:

The reading list of primary and secondary sources will be determined by the student and Dr. Link.

Requirements and Grades:

Participation (communication with Dr. Link email & Zoom meetings)	100 points
Bibliography	100 points
Research Paper	200 points
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Total:	400 points

Explanation of Assignments:

Participation 100 points: These points are earned through communication (via email and/or Zoom meetings) with Dr. Link throughout the summer term. Any meetings will be agreed upon between Dr. Link and the student.

Bibliography 100 points: The student will compile a bibliography of primary and secondary sources for their paper. **This bibliography must have *at least 7 primary sources, 7 academic journal articles, and 10 academic books sources.*** You are welcome to have more sources than these minimums.

- For primary sources: these must be sources from the time period being researched. They may include but are not limited to newspaper articles, journals, letters, government documents, laws, films (if relevant), literature (if relevant).
 - If these are found online, they must come from a reputable website, preferably a museum or archives.
- For secondary sources: For academic articles, they must be published with a reputable peer reviewed journal by a historian. For academic books they must be published by an academic press by a historian with a PhD.

The bibliography **MUST** adhere to Chicago Manual of Style for formatting.

Research Paper 200 points: The research paper is due during finals week (via email rather than Canvas) and must be a thoughtful, coherent, original well researched effort that represents the culmination of the semester's research. The paper must be of graduate level research caliber with a balanced examination of primary and secondary sources.

The topic of the research paper was determined prior to the semester per the student's work towards their master's thesis. This research paper, in agreement between Dr. Link and the student, will serve as the first draft of a thesis chapter.

This paper must be *at least* 5000 words (20 pages double spaced). Bibliography does not count toward word count.

THERE WILL BE NO INCOMPLETES for failure to complete an assignment. Assignments not turned in will result in a 0 for that assignment.

Course Etiquette:

1. Any meetings be held virtually, through Zoom. The Zoom link will be listed on Canvas. Attendance is mandatory. You will need to have your camera and microphone on.
 - a. If pets or family make their way in, that is absolutely fine. You can always mute your microphone if there are loud noises on your end.
 - b. These are not recorded and thus, not uploaded to Canvas. Since graduate courses are not lecture based and instead are entirely based on discussion, attending class is the only way to actively engage with the material.

2. Submitting assignments early will not result in them being graded earlier than the deadline nor will they be edited by Dr. Link for the student to revise.
3. Make sure to have your Canvas notifications sent to your email. You are responsible for staying up to date on deadlines, announcements, etc.
 - a. You are responsible for all class lectures, readings, and any other videos assigned.
4. The classroom is a place for intellectual growth and to achieve that we must all be respectful and courteous to each other. Respect is a must! We will not always all agree (that is the heart of academics!) but it is crucial that we express our ideas in a respectful way. Students who do not adhere to this will be asked to leave the class and will receive 0 points in the course (to be determined at Dr. Link's discretion).
 - a. Be human: Remain patient, ask/wait for clarification, avoid assumptions and rushed judgement. Forgive mistakes and apologize for errors.
 - b. Be a good colleague: Remember your role as a student in the course. Make sure you're following directions. Be authentic and collaborative with colleagues. Be aware of your behavior and how others interpret your communication.
 - c. Be professional: Proofread your own writing for spelling, grammar, and punctuation to prevent miscommunication. Avoid slang, sarcasm, or emotionally charged writing. Profanity and offensive language will not be tolerated.
 - d. Be a responsible citizen: Graduate classes are, in part, about professionalization as a historian. This means conducting yourself in a professional manner in your in class conduct as well as in your interactions with classmates and professors.
5. Late assignments not accepted.
6. **No** emailed assignments accepted. Assignments **must** be submitted in hard copy or on Canvas as directed on the assignment.
7. **Use technology responsibly and considerately**. It is tempting to surf the internet, check your phone, etc. while in a Zoom classroom but please refrain. We will have breaks where you can check your texts, get a snack, etc. When in class be present. It is quite obvious when you are on your phone or surfing websites.
8. When you email me, I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays. On weekends, it may take longer but I will definitely get back to you within 48 hours at the latest.
 - a. When you email me, address your email to: Professor/Dr. Link and sign it with your name.
 - b. If you have a procedural question –about due dates, what the assignment requirements are, etc. –check the syllabus and the materials on Canvas, as your answer may be there, and you can know immediately, rather than awaiting an email reply.
 - c. I will always address you directly and respectfully in my emails to each of you; I ask the same courtesy in return. If students continue to refuse to address the faculty by name, I reserve the right to not reply to the email.

Student Standards of Academic Integrity:

As adults and college students I expect the work you turn in to be your work and your work alone. I do not tolerate AI usage, plagiarism, cheating, or collusion (see definitions below) and if you do any of these you will receive a 0 on that assignment with no option of resubmitting. You may also receive a 0 in the class depending on the egregiousness of the scholastic dishonesty and be reported to Judicial Affairs. Dr. Link reserves the right to adjudicate punishment for each individual case.

UT Tyler Statement on AI:

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 is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

AI Statement for this course: AI/Chat GPT is not permitted in this course. To best support your learning, you must complete all graded assignments by yourself to assist in your learning. This exclusion of other resources to help complete assignments includes artificial intelligence (AI). Refrain from using AI tools to generate any course context (e.g., text, video, audio, images, code, etc.) for an assignment or classroom assignment. This includes but is not limited to Grammarly, AI checkers, & ChatGPT. Assignments using AI in **ANY AMOUNT** will receive a zero with no chance of resubmission.

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 unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. "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 soliciting in whole or part 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 instructor has designated that the examination is 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 for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
 - paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home 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; and
 - 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.
- ii. “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.
- iii. “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.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.