

Texas A&M University Central Texas
Department of Humanities

Fall 2018
HIST 3300 The Historian's Craft

Instructor: Dr. Timothy C. Hemmis
Meeting Room: FH 312
TR: 1-2:15PM
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Office Hours: MW 2:30-4:30PM or by appointment



Course Description and Objectives:

This class is structured to be the gateway course for the History Major. It will introduce students to the practices and methods of the historian. This course will strengthen your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, research skills, and provide a foundation for better understanding the study of history. You will demonstrate the ability to develop and focus on one topic in writing assignments and present ideas in an organized, logical, and coherent form. You will also demonstrate the ability to use Standard English grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage. Lastly, you will hopefully leave this class with a better understanding of how history is done.

*** This course is required of all history majors, is a prerequisite for upper level History courses, and must be taken during their first semester at TAMUCT.

The course objectives:

- To draw connections between the past and the present.
- To understand historical debates.
- To work with primary documents and develop an understanding of how historians use documents to interpret the past.
- To critically analyze a historical text.
- To write clear and coherent essays that develop a historical argument.

Required Texts

Dowd, Gregory Evans. *Groundless: Rumors, Legends, and Hoaxes on the Early American Frontier*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015.

Gaddis, John Lewis. *The Landscape of History How Historians Map the Past*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. Boston: Bedford/St Martin's, 2018.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Ninth Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.

Recommended Texts

Strunk, William, and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. 2017.

There can be other articles and book chapters that the Professor may provide electronically each week.

Course Requirements

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Seminar Participation/ Attendance	100 points	All semester
Primary Source Analysis Paper	100 points	Week 3
Journal Article Review	100 points	Week 5
Book/Monograph Review	100 points	Week 7
Intro Paragraph (Thesis)	100 points	Week 9
Annotated Bibliography	100 points	Week 8
Oral Presentation on Research	100 points	Week 15
Rough Draft of Paper	100 points	Week 11
Research Paper	200 points	Week 15

Scoring:

Final Grades will be determined based upon the following scale:

A	=	900-1000 points
B	=	800-899 points
C	=	700-799 points
D	=	600-699 points
F	=	Below 600 points

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance and participation are crucial elements of the learning experience. Attendance is your responsibility. Attendance will be taken daily. In addition, attendance means staying for the whole class. Do not leave early without speaking to me beforehand. Failure to regularly attend class will result in dire consequences such as failing the class. Please come to class prepared and ready to discuss the readings assigned for the day.

Writing Assignments

Book Review

There will be one critical review of a monograph. The review will be 900-1100 words long and be modeled after critical reviews in academic journals such as the *American Historical Review* or *The William and Mary Quarterly*. A book review concentrates on identifying and critiquing on the author's thesis. What is the author trying to argue, what evidence do they use, and do you agree and disagree? It is not just a simple summary of the book.

Journal Article Review

There will be one critical review of a journal article. The review will be 700-900 words long and be modeled after critical reviews in academic journals such as the *American Historical Review* or *The William and Mary Quarterly*. A journal review concentrates on identifying and critiquing on the author's thesis. What is the author trying to argue, what evidence do they use, and do you agree and disagree? It is not just a simple summary of the book.

Primary Source Analysis Essay

Each student will find a substantial primary source given by the instructor. They must read and analyze the primary source. Then write a two page summary and analysis of the document.

Research Paper

You will perform primary and secondary historical research on any topic in History and write an argumentative paper (10 -12 pages of text) with appropriate footnotes and bibliography. The topic choice is the student's decision (within the class's subject area), but it must be reached in consultation with the instructor. Students should get to the library early and begin searching out primary documents they can base their research.

Please let the instructor know your person of interest by Week 3 via email.

The student then will write an Introductory Paragraph (with thesis statement) worth 10% of the grade this would be similar to a conference proposal.

Then there will be a rough draft of the paper worth 10% of the grade

There will also be an oral presentation of the paper worth 10% of the grade.

The final draft of essay will be 2,000-3,000 words and be worth 20% of the grade.

There will be period research checks throughout the semester (orally or written)

Annotated Bibliography

The Annotated Bibliography will consist of 8 monographs and 3 journal articles. Worth 10% of the grade

Oral Presentation

Students will give a 10 minute presentation on their research topic in class.

Important Reminder

Late Papers will be penalized 10% (or 1 letter grade) for every class day they are late. Weekends do not count as class days.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You must follow to honesty codes set forth in the student handbook. Plagiarism is a serious offense. This or any other violation of the university’s Code of Student Conduct can result in penalties that can include up to an F in the class and expulsion from the university. For the official definition of what constitutes plagiarism, see the Student Handbook.

The instructor reserves the right to use electronic resources to detect plagiarism.

If you have any questions about this, please see me.

FORMATTING

Essays must comply with the following formatting guidelines. Writing assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated. Essays must be submitted as hard copies (electronic copies of papers will not be accepted).

Your papers must be typewritten, with 12 pt. font in Times New Roman and double-spaced lines. The header of your paper should be single-spaced and in the following format:

Your Name
Paper, HIS 343
Dr. Timothy Hemmis
janedoe@yahoo.com
Due Date

Your paper should have 1” margins on the top and bottom and 1.25” margins on the left right margins. Evidence must be cited using footnotes. Use of alternate forms of citation, such as the MLA format, is not acceptable. Finally, your essays must be stapled (no “dog ears,” paper clips, or binders) and the pages numbered! If you have questions about the proper format of your essay, please see me during my office hours.

The essay must include evidence from the text, and you must cite that evidence using footnotes. Use the following examples as models:

First citation:

¹ Alfred F. Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party: Memory and the American Revolution* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1999), 45.

Subsequent citations:

⁵ Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party*, 74.

Unexcused/ Late Work or Absences from Exams:

The only valid excuses for missing an exam or failing to turn in a paper or homework on time are illnesses requiring medical care, required university activities, religious holidays, or a personal emergency of a serious nature. To be excused without penalty, documentation is required. In certain other circumstances, I will allow you to turn in an assignment early or take an exam in advance, but you must see me as soon as possible. Do not wait until the last possible minute.

Academic Accommodations:

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our Access & Inclusion web page [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html>].

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the Student Affairs web page [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html>]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these requirements and guidelines online, please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Cell Phones

In accordance with College policy, the use of all personal electronic communication devices in this class (or laboratory) is prohibited. Students are required to turn off or silence their personal electronic communication devices during this class.

Office Hours

I am available in my office hours to answer your questions and look over drafts before paper your papers are due.

Academic Support Services

Tutoring is available to all students, both on-campus and online. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Room 111. Please contact Academic Support Programs if you are interested in tutoring at (254) 501-5830 or by e-mailing c.garza@tamuct.edu.

***This syllabus is a mutual contract between the professor and student and the student and professor.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Class Introduction and What is History?

Reading Assignment: Read the Syllabus and Join the Online Class; Rampolla 1-7; Gaddis Preface-16.

Week 2 History of History and Evaluating Sources

Reading Assignment: Rampolla 8-23, Gaddis 17-34

Week 3 Researching

Reading Assignment: Rampolla 24-50; Gaddis 35-52,

Primary Source Analysis Essay Due on Tuesday.

Online Class on Thursday

Week 4 Research Skills (Online Class Only This Week)

Assignments: On Canvas and work on research paper.

Week 5 Thinking like a Historian: Journals

Assignments Gaddis 53-70. Start reading Dowd
Discussion of Journals and Peer Reviewed Articles

Journal Article Review Due

Week 6 What about Book Reviews?

Reading Assignment: Gaddis 71-90; continue reading Dowd

Week 7 Historiography and Annotated Bibliographies

Reading Assignment: Gaddis 91-109; Turabian 149-168.

Dowd Book Review Due

Week 8 Facts why they matter

Reading Assignment: Gaddis 111-128 ; Turabian 38-50

Annotated Bibliography Due

Week 9 What is a thesis?

Reading Assignment: Gaddis 129-151; Turabian 52-65; 132-133; Rampolla 82-102.

Intro Paragraph Due

Week 10 Tackling a Research Paper

Reading Assignment: Turabian 66-85; 134-135

Writing Day on Thursday.

Week 11 Editing is Writing

Reading Assignment: Rampolla 61-81

Rough Draft is Due

Week 12 Archival Work

Reading Assignment:

Week 13 Jobs in the History Field

Reading Assignment: <https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-resources/careers-for-history-majors>

Thanksgiving Week – No Class on Thursday.

Week 14 Writing Week

Reading Assignment:

Week 15 Presentations

Week 16: Final Wrap Up