

**Senior Research Seminar  
HIST 4395-120  
Online  
Fall 2019**

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**Office Hours: By Appointment**

**Course Description and Objectives:**

In this course students will select a historical topic and create a research paper based around the examination and analysis of primary source material in order to develop and demonstrate research, writing, and presentation skills.

**Mode of Instruction and Course Access:**

This is a fully online course with no scheduled face-to-face meetings.

This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System  
<https://tamuct.instructure.com>.

**Contacting the Professor**

All communications in this course between students and the professor should take place using the Canvas message system. You can expect to receive a reply to any message within 24 hours, except on weekends when the turnaround time may be up to 48 hours or longer. In most cases, however, replies will be made much sooner than that. If for some reason you are unable to access Canvas, you may contact me via email. I can also be available on a very limited basis by appointment if you desire a face-to-face meeting. Telephone meetings are also a possibility. Please message me if you would like to schedule a meeting and we will work out the time and place on a case-by-case basis.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate factual knowledge and an understanding of fundamental theories: Students will examine and evaluate the themes and concepts related to their chosen topic.
2. Analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view: Students will analyze and critically evaluate the conclusions of different historians regarding the Atlantic World.

3. Apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decision making: Students will apply course material to improve thinking and decision making by constructing and analyzing historical arguments, and drawing conclusions from studied work.

4. Demonstrate specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course: As part of their research project, students will evaluate and review of the work of other scholars.

5. Demonstrate skill in expressing themselves orally and in writing: Consistent with an upper-level History course, students will develop skills in written and/or oral communication.

6. Use required resources and find additional scholarly resources for answering questions or solving problems: Students will utilize self-selected source material in the completion of their course work.

### **Recommended Readings:**

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.

Strunk, William and E.B. White. The Elements of Style. 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. New York: Longman, 1999.

### **Grading Policy**

**TOPIC PROPOSAL:** Students will compose and submit a formal research proposal outlining their research topic. The topic proposal is worth 25 points and 5% of the course grade.

**PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS:** Students will formally assess and evaluate a primary source, or group of sources, that will form the core material for their research projects. The thesis statement is worth 50 points and 10% of the course grade.

**LITERATURE REVIEW:** Students will evaluate the seminal works, key themes, and main currents of thought about their research topic. The thesis statement is worth 50 points and 10% of the course grade.

**WORKING THESIS STATEMENT:** Students will craft an appropriate thesis statement which will guide their research. The thesis statement is worth 25 points and 5% of the course grade.

**OUTLINE:** Students will submit an outline of their research paper. The research outline is worth 50 points and 10% of the course grade.

**RESEARCH PAPER:** Students will write a research paper of approximately 7500 words (25 pages) not including notes, front matter, or bibliography. The paper will conform to Turabian style formatting and documentation. The paper is worth 250 points and 50% of the course grade

**FORMAL PRESENTATION:** Students will prepare a formal presentation of their research that could be delivered to an audience of their peers in a conference or symposium type of setting. The presentation is worth 50 points and 10% of the course grade.

**IMPORTANT:** In addition to the above-listed graded items, there will be several non-graded assignments throughout the semester that are required submissions. All semester assignments must be completed in order to submit the final paper and receive a course grade.

**LATE WORK:** Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 10% of the assignment grade for each day past the due date. Please note, however, that late work will not be accepted past the semester end date of Friday, July 27. Make-ups for missed assignments will be given on a case-by-case basis and only for documented reasons such as hospitalization/illness, incarceration, military service etc. Students are responsible for securing all necessary documentation for consideration when asking for a makeup.

**INCOMPLETES:** Incomplete grades are reserved for extraordinary circumstances such as Hospitalization, Incarceration, Deployment etc. that arise after the university drop date and which prevent the student from completing any outstanding course work. Inability to complete assigned work for whatever reason before the drop date should be handled via dropping the course. Decisions to allow an incomplete are made at the sole discretion of the professor.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All written electronic assignments must be submitted in one of the following formats: Microsoft, Open Office, or Libre Office . All other formats, such as Apple .pages or .wps will not be accepted

### **Withdrawals/Drop Date:**

It is the responsibility of the student to initiate a drop through the Records Office if they discover the need to do so. Professors cannot drop students. The last day to drop this course with a "Q" or withdraw with a "W" is Friday, April 3.

### **Technology**

As students registered for a course that utilizes online components, you and you alone are responsible for ensuring that you have reliable and regular internet access as well as a reliable computer or comparable device. It is not my responsibility to accommodate online

students who lack access to computers or the internet. No exceptions to course policies will be made for students who lose their ability to access the internet or complete the required coursework on a computer during the semester. Also, while it is possible to access the course materials using a dial-up internet connection, you should be aware that Canvas (as with most other programs and platforms) functions best with high speed internet access. Course policies apply equally to all students regardless of the quality of their internet access.

For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: <http://hdc.tamu.edu>

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

### **The University Writing Center**

The UWC is continuing with synchronous online writing tutoring this summer. Students can schedule online appointments via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/> with any tutor who has “Face-to-face or online” underneath their name. Using WOnline, they will be able to video conference with a UWC tutor from the comfort of their own home!

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. Sessions typically last between 20-30 minutes. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will help students develop more effective invention and revision strategies.

Please see: <http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/kf5zv> for a short video about the writing center’s online tutoring services.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to adhere to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student’s academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student’s work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university’s

Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

NOTE: At the very minimum, students who violate the academic integrity policy will receive an "F" for this course, and the professor reserves the right to initiate further sanctions.

## **Access & Inclusion**

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 an education that is barrier-free. The Office of Access & Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability enjoy equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. Some aspects of this course or the way the course is taught may present barriers to learning due to a disability. If you feel this is the case, please contact Access & Inclusion at (254) 501-5831 in Warrior Hall, Suite 212. For more information, please visit their website at: <https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion/>  
Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

## **Library Services**

INFORMATION LITERACY focuses on research skills which prepare individuals to live and work in an information-centered society. Librarians will work with students in the development of critical reasoning, ethical use of information, and the appropriate use of secondary research techniques. Help may include, yet is not limited to: exploration of information resources such as library collections and services, identification of subject databases and scholarly journals, and execution of effective search strategies. Library Resources are outlined and accessed at:  
<http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/library/deservices.php>

## **Other Policies**

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY: Official communication is via your official Texas A&M University–Central Texas e-mail address, online via Canvas, and in-person in-class. Please check these places frequently for updates and information. It is the policy of the instructor to communicate sensitive information with students via e-mail only through an official TAMUCT e-mail address.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY: This course will use the TAMUCT Canvas Learn learning management system for class communications, content distribution, and assignments. If you have not yet activated the Canvas system, please do so, as this is critical for completing this course. The Canvas homepage for TAMUCT is:  
<https://tamuct.instructure.com/login/ldap>. Technology issues are not an excuse for

missing a course requirement, so please make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND COPYRIGHT POLICY:** You may download course recordings, but recordings may *only* be used for personal, private, research and study purposes only, and *must not be disseminated publicly in any way*.

**Copyright Notice:** The electronic content and materials in this course are for the sole purpose of instruction as part of this course offered by Texas A&M University–Central Texas, and are solely for university students registered in this course, and are subject to copyright protection law. Students who disregard United States copyright policy and institution policy do so at their own risk and assume all liability.

### **911 Cellular:**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas  
911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

### **Course Outline:**

**Please Note:** This outline is intended a general guide only. As the instructor, I reserve the right to adjust this syllabus or the class schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.

Each week of class has a specific Canvas module which contains the assignments for that week so please be sure to check it regularly.

**Week 1 (Jan. 13)** Introduction, Selecting a research topic

**Week 2 (Jan. 20);** Turabian style and format considerations **Initial Primary Source Proposal Due Tues. 1/28 at 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 3 (Jan. 27)** Methodology and philosophical considerations; **Topic Proposal Due Tues. 2/4 at 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 4 (Feb. 3)** Preliminary secondary source bibliographies **Due Tues. 2/11 at 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 5 (Feb. 10)** Primary source analysis; **Primary source analysis essay Due Tues. 2/18 at 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 6 (Feb. 17)** Additional primary sources; **Supporting primary source exploration Due Tues. 2/25 at 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 7 (Feb. 24)** Literature Review and assessment; No assignments due

**Week 8 (Mar. 2) Literature Reviews Due Tues. 3/10 at 11:59 p.m.**

**SPRING BREAK WEEK (Mar. 9)**

**Week 9 (Mar. 16)** Crafting a thesis statement **Working Thesis Statements due Tues. 3/24 at 11:59 p.m**

**Week 10 (Mar. 23)** Outlining research projects, **Preliminary Outlines due Tues. 3/31 at 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 11 (Mar. 30)** No assignments due

**Week 12 (Apr. 6) Research Paper Outlines dues Tues. 4/14 at 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 13 (Apr. 13)** Preparing a Presentation. **Draft Submissions Due Tues. 4/21 at 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 14 (Apr. 20)** Continue working; Consultations, No Assignments Due. Updated draft submissions (optional)

**Week 15 (Apr. 27)** Work on Paper and Presentations; **Presentations Due Tues. 5/5 at 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 16 (May 4) FINALS WEEK- Final Research Paper Due Fri. 5/8 @ 11:59 p.m.**