

Introduction to Research

HIST 2291 – Fall Semester 2021

MW, 10–10:50 a.m.

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Course Overview

Introduction to Research examines methods of inquiry through the evolution of history as a scholarly discipline. It explores questions surrounding the analysis and application of historical source material and its interpretation. Topics include historiography, historical theory, concepts, methodology, disciplinary fields, research skills, logic, controversy and the overall history of historical thinking and writing.

- Satisfies General Education Objective 8: Information Literacy.
- Satisfies 3 credits of Category II: Research Skills for history majors.
- *De jure* prerequisite for HIST 4491.

Course Objectives & Outcomes

Through this course students will:

- Read reflectively on the nature of historical inquiry and gain practice in critical evaluation of a variety of secondary source historical literature;
- Understand and learn to identify and apply basic historical and history-related social science concepts;
- Become broadly familiar with main stages of the history of historical thinking, research and writing, and with modern historical schools, movements, and fields;
- Extend their information literacy by learning to use the tools of historical research available in libraries, archives, and online;

Required Materials

Anna Green and Kathleen Troup, *The Houses of History: A Critical Reader in twentieth-century history and theory* (second edition, 2016)

Writing Expectations

Students should exhibit appropriate, university-level writing at all times and cite sources using footnotes that conform to Kate Turabian, *A manual for writers of term papers, theses, and dissertations* (current edition), a.k.a., Chicago style.

Guidelines, rubrics, sample work, and policies are at jdstover.com

- Gain experience in evaluating and interpreting various types of primary sources and other literary and physical historical materials;
- Gain experience in organizing and presenting their findings in well-written, appropriately-cited response papers and in oral presentations;
- Understand the nature and range of history as a profession and the training and activities of academic and other historians;
- Understand the role and significance of history to current political dialogue and as an important component of cultural identity in a broader global context.

Format

This course is structured from three elements: 1. expository lectures that introduce and reinforce concepts and expound upon assigned readings; 2. Writing exercises and discussions from reading prompts; 3. Archival and library work. It is expected that students will attend all lectures. Absences will naturally hinder comprehension. Video reproductions of the lecture will not be made available.

Evaluation

Item	Points	Due
Writing responses	10 points each	Submitted via Moodle, Fridays by 11 a.m.
Midterm Exam	100 points	15 October
Collections Report	100 points	3 December
Research Proposal	100 points	10 December
Final Exam	100 points	13 December, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Skill(s)	Readings	Due this week
1	23, 25 August	Introduction, course structure & goals; What <i>was</i> history?	Discovering the Field	Green & Troup, ch. 1	Writing response 1
2	30 August; 1 September	What <i>is</i> history? Empiricism		Green & Troup, ch. 2	Writing response 2
3-4	8, 13, 15 September	Political history; national histories; history of nationalism	Sources; Dissecting an Archive – Dublin Castle Records	Tosh, <i>The Pursuit of History</i> , chs. 3-5; Benedict Anderson, <i>Imagined Communities</i> , chs. 2 & 6	Writing response 3
5-6	20, 22, 27, 29 September	Marxist history; psycho-history	Causation	Green & Troup, chs. 3-4	Writing response 4
7	4, 6 October	<i>Annals</i> school of history	The Limits of Evidence	Green & Troup, ch. 5 Tosh, ch. 7 Peter Burke, 'Glossary: the language of <i>Annales</i> ', pp 112-116	Writing response 5
8	MIDTERM WEEK Midterm Exam Available Online Monday, 11 October through Friday, 15 October.				

Week	Dates	Topics	Research Skill	Readings	Due this week
9	18, 20 October	Social history	Organization, retrieval, & application.	Green & Troup, ch. 6; Gustave le Bon: 'General characteristics of crowds', pp 1-9	Writing response 6
10	25, 27 October	Power in history; Historical Memory	Structure, narrative, argument, & citation	Green & Troup, ch. 9; Michel-Rolph Trouillot, <i>Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History</i> , ch. 1; Jay Winter, <i>Remembering War</i> , Intro. & ch. 1.	Writing response 7
11	1, 3 November	Gender in History	Elusive Evidence	Green and Troup, ch. 10	Writing response 8
12	8, 10 November	Environmental history		Bonneuil & Fressoz, <i>The Shock of the Anthropocene</i> , chs. 1-2	Writing response 9
13	15, 17 November	History of Emotions & Feelings		Green and Troup, ch. 15; William Reddy, <i>The Navigation of Feeling</i> , ch. 6.	Writing response 10
14	Fall Recess: 22-26 November	No Lectures – Enjoy your Fall Recess			

15	29 November; 1 December	No lectures. One-on-one meetings available by request	Collections Report due 3 December
16	6, 8 December	No Lectures. One-on-one meetings available by request	Research Proposal due 10 December
17	Final Exam Week	FINAL EXAM WEEK Final Exam Available Online Monday, 13 December, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	