

HISTORY 4985
Course Syllabus
Spring 2013
Dr. Vickers
T/R 12:00-1:15 (SBS 274)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Vikki J. Vickers
Social and Behavioral Sciences Bldg., Rm. 252
801-626-6712 (no voice mail)
Office Hours: MWF 1:30-3:00 p.m. (MST)

E-mail: (1) Click on the "**People**" tab or click on my name to e-mail me via Canvas; or (2) e-mail me directly at vikkivickers@weber.edu. Note: In order to maintain your privacy and comply with federal regulations, *e-mails sent from any address other than your WSU account will NOT be answered.*

If you experience any technical difficulties this semester FIRST contact Computing Support at 801.626.7777 or WSU Online at 801.626.6499 or view other technical support information in the Online Orientation (link on the course website).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course teaches research and writing skills and is designed to prepare history students for History 4990. Students will learn how to find a research topic, develop a thesis, identify primary sources, cite those sources, and prepare a research proposal. The course will expose students to models of good historical writing and argumentation that will serve as models for their own writing.

REQUIRED READING

1. James Banner, Jr., *A Century of American Historiography*
2. William Kelleher Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students*
3. Lynne Truss, *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*
4. Brown and Shannon, *Going to the Source, Vol. 2*
5. Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* OR *Chicago Manual of Style* (get a recent edition of either so you will have citations for electronic sources)

SYLLABUS INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read this Syllabus carefully
2. Set your Canvas **Profile** to receive Course Announcements and Updates via e-mail, text message, Facebook, etc.
3. Next click on the "**Modules**" tab on the left side of the course page
4. Go through all of the "Step" modules in order

If you do not view all items in the "Step" Modules and/ or do not get 100% correct on the Syllabus/ Netiquette Quiz you will not be able to access your Assignments. You can take the quiz as many times as you need to in order to get 100%.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ETHICS

All students in this course are expected to abide by the WSU Student Code. *Any words not your own MUST be cited properly or you will face the consequences.* This includes paraphrasing as well as direct quotations. Cite properly with footnotes or endnotes using MLA, APA, or Turabian/ Chicago.

If there is any academic violation of the code – cheating, plagiarism, etc. -- you will receive an "E" for the course and will be reported to Judicial Affairs for further action.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Services Bldg. before contacting the instructor. SSD can also be reached at 801.626.6413 (Video Phone: 801.626.6850). SSD can arrange to provide materials in alternate formats if necessary.

MAKE-UP POLICY

It is your responsibility to be aware of all deadlines; even one minute late is LATE. All late assignments will automatically receive a grade of 0 (zero).

All make-up requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If you ask for a make-up, I will review your circumstances and decide whether or not to grant you a make-up. Failure to pay attention to deadlines is not a valid reason to request a make-up; neither is being on vacation. If you cite an illness or death in the family I will ask for documented proof. Even with documentation *you are not guaranteed a make-up; you are only guaranteed that I will listen to and review your request.* If I grant you a make-up **I reserve the right to deduct points for lateness.** It is in your best interest NOT to miss any deadlines.

GRADING

1. **Writing History** online Assignments (4, 20 points each, 80 points total – 10% of your total grade)

On the Canvas course website under the "Assignments" tab you will find short writing assignments (150 words each) that need to be submitted online. Deadlines are on the schedule below.

II. **Take Home Research Exam** (50 points – 15% of your total grade)

You will have a Take Home Exam (available on the course website) that will require you to engage in hands-on history research. This assignment is designed to teach you the skills you will need to find sources for 4985 and 4990.

Due Date: In class February 5, 2013

III. **Source Analysis Tables** *Going to the Source* (6, 20 points each, 120 points total – 15% of your total grade)

In your *Going to the Source* book you will learn to analyze different kinds of primary sources. Each chapter that you will be reading contains a downloadable Source Analysis Table that you will need to complete and turn in during class. Deadlines are on the schedule below.

IV. ***A Century of American Historiography*** online Assignments (6, 20 points each, 120 points total – 10% of your total grade)

You will have to be able to place your question and ultimately your Senior Thesis within the context of scholarship that already exists on your research. This essentially is what is known in the profession as "historiography."

This book will teach you what historiography is, and how to frame your question in a broader research context. On the Canvas course website under the "Assignments" tab you will find short writing assignments (150 words each) that need to be submitted online. Deadlines are on the schedule below.

V. **Topic Proposal** (100 points – 25% of your total grade)

You will need to develop a research question that will form the basis of your Senior Thesis in 4990. It should be narrowly focused ("World War II" is too large; so is "Women in World War II"). We will talk more in class and during individual conferences about how to effectively narrow your interests into a workable research question.

You will find a Template for how to write a proper, formal proposal on the Canvas course website.

First Draft Deadline: In class, February 21, 2013
Final Draft due April 15, 2013

VI. **Categorized Bibliography** (100 points – 25% of your total grade)

You will need *at least* **15** approved primary and **15** approved secondary sources related to your topic by the end of the semester. You will need to organize these into a Categorized Bibliography (Primary and Secondary Sources) that conforms to Turabian/ Chicago formatting. You will find instructions for how to do this, and samples, on pp. 149-150 and pp. 401-402 of the 7th Edition of Turabian.

First Draft due in class, March 21, 2013
Final Draft due April 15, 2013

FINAL GRADE

50% = Research Exam and Canvas writing assignments from your readings
50% = Proposal and Bibliography

**Note: If you neglect any portion of your requirements this semester your overall grade will suffer. If you neglect your Proposal and Bibliography, not only will your grade in 4985 suffer but you will also be setting yourself up for difficulty in 4990.*

COURSE SCHEDULE

(subject to change without notice)

On Discussion days bring your books to class!

Week 1

Course Introduction
Zotero
Topic Ideas?
Reading Day – no class

Discussion: Storey, Chapter 1
Undergraduate Research Grants
Assignment due online by Noon

Week 2

Discussion: Storey, Chapter 2
The AHA
Assignment due online by Noon

Meet in the Library (Rm. L138) for presentation by Prof. Kathy Payne

Week 3

Discussion: Storey, Chapter 3
Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Sources
Assignment due online by Noon

Discussion: Storey, Chapter 4
Online Primary Sources
Assignment due online by Noon

Meet in the Library (Special Collections) for a presentation by Sarah Langsdon

Sign up for an Individual Conference

Week 4

Turabian Exercises (bring your book to class)
Internet research: What is valid and what is not?
JSTOR
What is a Thesis?

Turabian Exercises (bring your book to class)
Topic Ideas?
Discussion: *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* (all)
In class Exercises
Take Home Research Exam due in class (late after 1:15 p.m.)

Sign up for an Individual Conference

Week 5

Discussion: *Source*, Chapter 3
Source Analysis Table due in class (late after 1:15 p.m.)
Individual Conferences – No Class

Week 6

Discussion: *Source*, Chapter 4
Source Analysis Table due in class (late after 1:15 p.m.)
Reading Day – No class

Week 7

Discussion: *Source*, Chapter 5
Source Analysis Table due in class (late after 1:15 p.m.)

Reading Day – No Class
Proposal Due by 5:00 p.m. (must be submitted electronically)

Week 8

Discussion: *Source*, Chapter 6

Source Analysis Table due in class (late after 1:15 p.m.)

Discussion: *Source*, Chapter 10

Source Analysis Table due in class (late after 1:15 p.m.)

Week 9 – Spring Break

Week 10

Discussion: *Source*, Capstone

Source Analysis Table due in class (late after 1:15 p.m.)

Discussion: “More Than Great White Men: A Century of Scholarship on American Social History”

Assignment due online by Noon

Sign up for Individual Conference

Week 11

Discussion: “American Intellectual History, 1907-2007”

Assignment due online by Noon

Discussion: “American Military History”

Assignment due online by Noon

Bibliography Due by 5:00 p.m. (must be submitted electronically)

Week 12

Discussion: “American Religious History, 1907-2007”

Assignment due online by Noon

Discussion: “The Rise of Environmental History”

Assignment due online by Noon

Week 13

Work Day – No Class

Discussion: “Regionalism and Sectionalism in American Historical Writing”

Assignment due online by Noon

Sign up for Individual Conference

Week 14

Individual Conferences

Final Proposal Due by 5:00 p.m. April 15*

Final Bibliography Due by 5:00 p.m. April 15*

*Submit both hard and electronic copies of both

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who have taken History 4985 should be able to do the following:

Reading

- Identify an author's thesis
- Evaluate an author's thesis
- Identify and understand theoretical or methodological approaches in historical writing (Marxist theory, Oral History, etc.)
- Understand that historical scholarship is an ongoing process, and that scholars viewing the same evidence may have radically different interpretations

Research

- Distinguish between primary and secondary sources
- Evaluate the validity of primary and secondary sources, using accepted professional methods
- Evaluate the validity of internet sources and websites
- Have a clear understanding of how and where to access sources for historical research (databases, archives, journals, etc.)
- Conduct primary and secondary research in libraries (and archives)
- Understand the importance of being organized, and being careful in documenting sources
- Use Turabian and/or the Chicago Manual of Style to cite sources in the manner of professional historians

Standards and Practices

- Know what the American Historical Association is and what the AHA considers to be standards and practices for the study of History
- Understand the difference between **plagiarism** and **poor research methods**
- Understand that both plagiarism and poorly conducted research are both egregious offenses in the study of History
- Understand the consequences of plagiarism as both a Weber State Student and a History Major

Writing

- Write clearly and professionally
- Write a Topic Proposal for 4990 (Senior Seminar)
- Compose a bibliography in Turabian format to support their Topic Proposal, with *at least* 15 primary and 15 secondary sources (the composition of those sources – online, archival, etc. to be determined by the instructor)*