

## HIST 2900: The Historian's Craft

Fall Semester 2016

Dr. Eli Rubin, PhD

Lecture Section: Dunbar 3214

M & W 11:00-11:50

Lab Section ("Friday Forum"): Dunbar 2208

F 11:00-11:50

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Office Hrs: M 1-3, W 1:30-2:30

*Prerequisite: minimum of one introductory or higher-level History course, or permission of History Department's Director of Undergraduate Studies*

### Course Objectives & Expectations

This course examines the scope and methods of history and introduces basic research, analytical, communication, and study skills required of all historians. In addition, the class emphasizes awareness of history as a profession, and introduces a range of resources that may enhance students' skills and knowledge as professional historians.

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- (1) Demonstrate an understanding of the basic terms, concepts, questions, fields and subfields within the history profession.
- (2) Understand the difference between primary and secondary sources
- (3) Critically analyze, contextualize, and compare primary and secondary sources.
- (4) Generate important research questions and effective thesis statements.

- (5) Efficiently and effectively locate the best and most appropriate primary and secondary sources for research projects.
- (6) Become proficient in the cumulative stages of developing, researching, and writing a historical research paper.
- (7) . Properly and effectively use the Chicago Style of citation.
- (8) . Identify the major authors, central themes, historical concepts, and recent trends in the historiographic tradition, and contextualize their own research and interests within this tradition.
- (9) Create meaningful and academically challenging degree plans and utilize the resources of College and Departmental advising offices.
- (10) Understand the curriculum structure of the History majors and minors at WMU.
- (11) Understand the wide range of professions and post-college opportunities open for those interested in history.
- (12) Understand and appreciate the connections between history and the everyday world surrounding them, including in their own lives.

<b>Required Texts</b>
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1. Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed. (University of Chicago Press, 2010)

\* Further readings will be available on the course E-learning site. These are marked in the syllabus or will be announced in class.

## Grading

Primary Source Assignment	5
Secondary Source Assignment	5
Thesis Assignment	5
Citation Assignment	5
Historiography Assignment	5
First draft of paper	5
Second draft of paper	5
Third draft of paper	5
Friday Forum Summaries	10
Class Participation	25
Final Paper	25

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**Total = 100**

### Stepping Stone Assignments and Final Paper

Your grade in this class is determined by nine assignments, your class participation/attendance, your Friday forum attendance, and most importantly, your final paper. (See sections below for Friday Forums and Class Participation grades). Eight of the assignments are cumulative, meaning, that they each are intended for you to build a skill related to research and writing, and they lead up to your final paper. The better you do on these “stepping stone” assignments, the easier your final paper will be.

Because these assignments build over the course of the entire semester towards your final assignment, you will need to choose your final paper topic very early—you will need to have a decent idea of what your topic is by the end of the second week of class, in fact. Your stepping stone assignments will all be based on this topic. Your final paper is the largest part of your grade—25%. You will have three opportunities to revise it in the form of in-class workshops.

### **List of assignments and deadlines:**

Below is a helpful list of all the assignments due in this class. There will be an assignment due every Friday from the third to the ninth weeks of the class; these are the stepping stone assignments. There are two more, including the final paper. All of them except the final paper are to be uploaded on e-learning. Note that the final paper is to be uploaded on iWebFolio.

Monday, September 26: Primary Source Assignment Due

Monday, October 3: Secondary Source Assignment Due

Wednesday, October 12: Citation Assignment Due

Wednesday, October 19: Thesis Assignment Due

Wednesday Oct. 26: Historiography Assignment Due

Monday, November 21: First Draft of Paper Due (in class)

Wednesday, November 30: Second Drafts Due (in class)

Monday, December 5: Third Drafts Due (in class)

Monday, December 12: Final Papers Due (**On iWebFolio**)

Wednesday, December 7 and Monday, December 12: Project presentations

### **Class participation and attendance policy**

Class participation is especially vital in this class. Unlike other classes, this is not simply a lecture or discussion class. Each class period is intended to teach you

and allow you to model a skill that will be necessary for later classes and assignments. Each of these skills is a necessary building block for later courses you will take as a history major.

There are 26 total lecture sessions. You can receive full, half, or no credit for these days; this corresponds to 1, 0.5, or 0 points. To receive full credit, you are required to be in class on time, and to participate fully in the class activities. This includes bringing reading questions filled out when they are due, in class: these questions are to be found on e-learning. The total points possible for class participation therefore is 26, giving you leeway of one class session.

### **Friday Forums**

Every Friday, class is held in a different location than your regular lecture course. Most of these will be in 2208 Dunbar Hall, though in some cases you will be in different locations on campus. This is known as “Friday Forum.” Attendance at Friday Forums is required. Friday Forums are intended to give you a more direct, hands-on experience. These cover a variety of topics, from writing and research workshops to presentations on different careers available to history majors, and more. These are intended to enhance your experience not only as a history major but later on in life as well. You will have to write a short summary of each Friday forum session and submit it to receive credit for attending; all together, these summaries form 10% of your grade.

### **Grading scale**

Your grade in this class is determined by your total points out of 100. This total then corresponds to the standard WMU grading scale: A (93-100); BA (88-92); B (83-87); CB (78-82); C (73-77); DC (68-72); D (60-67); E (under 60)

## Course Outline & Friday Forum Schedule

### WEEK ONE:

#### **Wednesday, Sept. 7:**

Class Intro/ Arguments and Evidence

*Receive final paper assignment*

#### **Friday, September 9:**

Friday Forum: The Importance of History

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### WEEK TWO:

#### **Monday, Sept. 12**

Primary and Secondary Sources

*\*Reading: Turabian, chs. 1-3; questions due **in class***

*\*Primary source assignment available on e-learning*

#### **Wednesday, September 14:**

Finding Sources #1: Primary Sources Online

*\*Bring laptops/tablets to class*

#### **Friday, September 16:**

Friday Forum: Visit to Waldo Library

(Finding Primary and Secondary Sources)

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### WEEK THREE

**Monday, September 19:**

Secondary Sources

*\*Secondary source assignment available on e-learning*

**Wednesday, September 21:**

Finding sources #2: printed primary and secondary sources

*\*Meet at entrance to Waldo Library*

*\*Bring any image-taking devices (phones, tablets)*

*\*Bring all call numbers from previous searches*

**Friday, September 23:**

Friday Forum: Library scavenger hunt

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WEEK FOUR

**Monday, September 26**

Citation #1: Chicago Style Citation

*\*Reading questions due in class: Turabian, chapters 15 & 16*

*\*Receive citation assignment*

*\*Primary Source Assignment due on e-learning*

**Wednesday, September 28:**

Writing #1: Structure & Pre-writing

*Reading questions due in class: Turabian, ch. 6*

**Friday, September 30:**

Friday Forum: Faculty Presentations I

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## WEEK FIVE

### **Monday, October 3:**

#### Writing workshop#1: developing your thesis

*\*Bring all materials related to project, including printed and electronic (printed or on a device) primary and secondary sources*

*\*Secondary Source Assignment due on e-learning*

*\* Reading questions due in class: Turabian, Ch. 5*

*\*Thesis assignment available on e-learning*

### **Wednesday, October 5:**

#### Writing #2: Grammar & formatting

*\* Reading questions due in class: Turabian ch. 7*

### **Friday, October 7:**

#### Friday Forum: Faculty Presentations II

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## WEEK SIX

### **Monday, October 10:**

#### Writing workshop #2: Assembly and beginning writing

*\*Bring all stepping stone assignments to class*

*\*Bring laptops for writing (or tablets, if you are comfortable writing on them/have a keyboard); laptops will be available.*

### **Wednesday, October 12:**

#### Historiography #1: Introduction to Historiography

*\*Historiography assignment available on e-learning*

*\*Citation Assignment Due on e-learning*

**Friday, October 14:**

Friday Forum: Presentation from Karen Steeno, Career Development Specialist

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WEEK SEVEN

**Monday, October 17:**

Historiography #2: History as a Battleground

**Wednesday, October 19:**

Historiography #3: Reading and Doing Historiography

*\*Reading: Excerpts on e-learning (reading questions due in class)*

*\*Thesis assignment due on e-learning*

**Friday, October 21:**

Friday Forum: iWebFolio

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WEEK EIGHT

**Monday, October 24**

History Curriculum (incl. honors, thesis, etc.)

**Wednesday, October 26**

Careers 2: The Historical Profession

*\*Historiography Assignment due on e-learning*

**Friday, October 28**

Friday Forum: Visit to Zhang Legacy Center Archives

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WEEK NINE

**Monday, October 31**

Study Abroad

**Wednesday, November 2**

Careers 3: Public History

**Friday, November 4**

Friday Forum: Public History

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WEEK TEN

**Monday, November 7**

Careers 4: Workshop with Karen Steeno (Career Development Specialist)

**Meet in Computer Lab in Brown Hall, 1045**

**Wednesday, November 9**

Careers 5: Teaching

**Friday, November 11**

Friday Forum: Secondary Education

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WEEK ELEVEN

**Monday, November 14**

Awards, honors, and grants

**Wednesday, November 16**

IWebFolio session follow-up with Karen Stokes Chapo  
**Meet in Computer Lab in Brown Hall, 1045**

**Friday, November 18**

Friday Forum: Alumni Visit

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WEEK TWELVE

**Monday, November 21**

Writing workshop #3: working with first drafts

*\*First Drafts Due: Bring first drafts of paper to class (preferably printed out; if electronic, then in Word, Pages, or another program that allows tracked changes and inserted comments)*

*\*Bring your own laptop/tablet; laptops will be provided*

**Wednesday, November 23**

History Far Away From Us

**Friday, November 25**

Thanksgiving Break—no school

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WEEK THIRTEEN

**Monday, November 28**

Writing Introductions & Conclusions

*\* Reading questions due in class: Turabian, ch. 9*

**Wednesday, November 30**

Writing Workshop #4

*\*Second drafts due in class. These should include intros and conclusions and should be full ten pages.*

*\*Bring laptops/tablets; laptops will be available in class*

**Friday, December 2**

Friday Forum: Habitat for Humanity, Peace Corps, Student Conservation Association

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WEEK FOURTEEN

**Monday, December 5**

Writing Workshop #5

*\*Third drafts due in class.* These should be almost finished, and ready for proofing (grammar, citation, etc.)

**Wednesday, December 7**

Final Presentations pt. 1

**Friday, December 9**

Friday Forum: Grad student panel

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**Monday, December 12 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Final Presentations pt. 2

**\*NOTE: THIS IS IN OUR FINAL EXAM SLOT TIME WHICH IS 10:15 AM-12:15 PM**

***\*FINAL PAPERS DUE ON IWEBFOLIO BY MIDNIGHT***