Overview
This course will acquaint students with the various schools of history, famous scholars, and common debates in the field of history. The class will also provide instruction in the various tools and research methods that are utilized by historians.

Course Objectives
Active participants will
1. practice to think historically (and learn why it is not as easy as it seems);
2. advance their abilities to read scholarly literature (such as monographs, book chapters, and journal articles);
3. learn how to analyze and interpret primary sources;
4. learn how to conduct independent research and to present their findings in written form.

Required Readings
This course works with three textbooks. You are required to rent or purchase a copy of the following books:


Any other readings will be made available is PDFs or links through Blackboard.

Format and Assignments
This is a 3.000 credit hours class. Since 1.00 credit hour translates roughly into 3 “real” hours per week, you are expected to spend about 9 "real" hours each week on this course. Keep this in mind when planning your workweeks and your fall semester.
My HIST 3300 is not a traditional lecture class in which the professor "feeds" you information, but rather a learning-by-doing class. This also means that this class is reading and writing intensive. The ability to read complicated texts and present your own arguments in a coherent written form are an essential part of "doing history."

Moreover, this is a highly structured online class. Over the course of this semester, you have to complete eleven thematic modules that require you to learn the basic methods, approaches, theories, and techniques that historians use to write history. These regular modules will always be due on Sundays by 11:59 PM. Each module requires you to read an assigned set of materials (50-150 pages) and complete one assignment (e.g. reading quiz, discussion assignment, textbook exercise, writing assignment, or research exercise).

To practice and apply what you learned in the individual modules, you have to complete three additional assignments: an article review, a primary source analysis, and an annotated bibliography. They are also due on Sundays by 11:59 PM.

11 Modules 55% of your final grade (5% per module)
Article Review 15% of your final grade
Source Analysis 15% of your final grade
Annotated Bibliography 15% of your final grade

Please be advised that no extra credit assignments will be offered in this class.

Policies and Rules of the Road

1. **No late assignments will be accepted except in the case of dire emergencies** (health emergencies including complications during pregnancy and childbirth; death in the family; car accident) **that you can properly document** (e.g. officials doctor’s note, police record bearing your name and date, etc.). To protect your privacy (in cases of family and health issues) I recommend that you contact UTRGV Student Accessibility Services to handle your case. Remember to make back-up copies of all your written assignments (a crashing hard drive on the day, or a couple of days before a written assignment is due, is not an acceptable excuse). If you realize ahead of time that you are unable to complete an assignment because of a dire emergency, contact me asap/before the assignment is due.

2. **Email Standards:** do not hesitate to contact your professor if you have any questions. Yet, before contacting your professor figure out if the answer to your question can be found on the syllabus, on your course’s blackboard site. When contacting your professor (or any other person) follow the rules of professional, cordial communication. Make sure to start your email with an appropriate greeting (e.g. “Dear Dr. …” or “Dear Professor …”); if you email a person for the first time, you should introduce yourself (e.g. My name is … and I am in your course …); pay attention to grammar, spelling, and punctuation; make sure that you
properly sign off your email (e.g. Cordially, …/Sincerely, …/ With the best wishes, …). I will not respond to emails that do not follow these stipulations.

3. **Academic Dishonesty:** As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. *Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts.* Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). *All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.*

4. **Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence:** In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

5. **Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. *Brownsville Campus:* Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. *Edinburg Campus:* Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.

6. **Mandatory Course Evaluations:** Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions.

---

### Schedule, Topics, and Readings

**Module One**

**Why and How Do Historians Study The Past? – History and Historiography**

*Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, September 2, 2018*

**Required Readings:**
• Handout “Quotations” from UNC, Chapel Hill’s Writing Center.

**Module Two**

*Why and How Do Historians Study The Past? – History and Historiography (continued)*  
*Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, August 31, 2018*  
*Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, September 9, 2018*  
*Required Readings:*  
- The handouts "Thesis Statement" and "Argument" by UNC's Writing Center.

**Module Three**

*Fantastic Secondary Sources: Where to Find Them and How to Use Them*  
*Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, September 7, 2018*  
*Due by 11:59 PM on September 16, 2018*  
*Required Readings:*  
- Webpage “Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Sources” by Virginia Tech University.  
- Webpage “Identifying Scholarly Sources” by Georgia State University, University Library.  
- Webpage "Effective Search Techniques" by Skidmore College, Lucy Scribner Library

**Module Four**

*How Do Historians Study The Past? – Reading Secondary Sources*  
*Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, September 14, 2018*  
*Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, September 23, 2018*  
*Required Readings:*  
- Salevouris, *The Methods and Skills of History*, 131-139.  

**Module Five**

*How Do Historians Study The Past? – Reading Secondary Sources II*  
*Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, September 21, 2018*  
*Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, September 30, 2018*  
*Required Readings:*  
- Darnton, *The Great Cat Massacre*, 75-104.
- Video "Chicago (Notes-Bibliography) Style: How to Cite Books," Memorial University Libraries.
- "Notes and Bibliography Style: Sample Citation," The Chicago Manual of Style Online.

**Module Six**

**How Do Historians Study The Past? – Documentation is Key**

*Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, September 28, 2018*

*Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 7, 2018*

**Required Readings:**

- Handout "Quotations" by UNC, Chapel Hill's Writing Center
- Video "Chicago (Notes-Bibliography) Style: Basic Introduction," Memorial University Libraries. (Starting at 1:44)
- Video "Chicago (Notes-Bibliography) Style: How to Cite Books," Memorial University Libraries.
- Video "Chicago (Notes-Bibliography) Style: How to Cite Journal Articles," Memorial University Libraries.
- "Notes and Bibliography Style: Sample Citation," The Chicago Manual of Style Online.

**First Assignment: Article Review**

*Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, September 28, 2018*

*Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 14, 2018*

**Module Seven**

**How Do Historians Study The Past? – Fantastic Primary Sources and Where to Find Them**

*Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, October 12, 2018*

*Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 21, 2018*

**Required Readings:**

- "Primary Sources in the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Professional Programs" by University of Minnesota Library.
- "Evaluating Primary Sources" by RUSA.

**Module Eight**

**How Do Historians Study The Past? – Using Primary Sources I**

*Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, October 19, 2018*

*Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 28, 2018*

**Required Readings:**

- Painting "Berlin Fashion" by Jaenne Mammen (1923) or painting "Sonja" by Christian Schad (1928).
- "The Elements of Art" put together by the Getty Museum.
- "Evaluating Primary Sources" by RUSA.

Module Nine
How Do Historians Study The Past? – Using Primary Sources II
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, October 26, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, November 4, 2018
Required Readings:
- “Personal Accounts” at World History Sources.

Module Ten
How Do Historians Study The Past? – Using Primary Sources II
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, November 2, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, November 11, 2018
Required Readings:
- "Newspapers" by Anne Rubenstein at World History Sources (including the "Newspaper Sample Analysis"
- "The History of the Flapper" Emily Spivack at the Smithsonian Institute.
- “Enough is Enough! Against the Masculinization of Women,” Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung March 1925.

Second Assignment: Primary Source Review
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, November 2, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, November 18, 2018

Thanksgiving Weekend (November 22-25)
No Assignments

Module Eleven
How Do Historians Study The Past? Finding the Right Source to Answer the Right Questions
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, November 23, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, December 2, 2018
No Required Readings

Final Assignment: Annotated Bibliography
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, November 23, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, December 9, 2018.