University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Department of History
HIST 3300 Online “Historiography & Methods”
Spring 2018

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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
• practice to think historically (and learn why it is not as easy as it seems);
• advance their abilities to read scholarly literature (such as monographs, book chapters, and journal articles);
• learn how to analyze and interpret primary sources;
• 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:


Please be advised that all the page numbers given on the syllabus and over the course of the semester refer to the printed versions of the books.

In addition, we will be reading other texts that will be made available as PDFs and work with different online platforms such as the website of UNC, Chapel Hill's Writing Center.
Structure, Format, and Assignments

*Historiography and Method* 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 hours each week on this course. Keep this in mind when planning your workweeks and your entire semester.

This class is not a traditional lecture class in which the professor “feeds” you information, but rather a learning-by-doing class. Over the course of the semester, you have to complete eleven thematic modules. They are always due by 11:59 PM on a Sunday. Each module requires you to read an assigned set of materials (50-150 pages) and complete two short assignments (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 bibliography.

11 Thematic Modules 55% of your final grade (5% per module)
Article Review 10% of your final grade
Primary Source Analysis 10% of your final grade
Annotated Bibliography 25% of your final grade

Schedule, Topics, and Readings

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

Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, January 21, 2018

Required Readings:

Module Two
*How do Historians Study the Past? – It Always Starts with Question*

Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, January 19, 2018

Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, January 28, 2018

Required Readings:
- Handout “Paragraphs” and “Quotations” from UNC, Chapel Hill’s Writing Center
Module Three
How Do Historians Study The Past? – Fantastic Secondary Sources and Where to Find Them
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, January 26, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on February 4, 2018
Required Readings:
- Webpage “Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Sources” by Virginia Tech University
- Webpage “Identifying Scholarly Sources” by George State University, University Library
- Salevuris, The Methods and Skills of History, 104-114 and 131-139.

Module Four
How Do Historians Study The Past? – Reading Secondary Sources
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, February 2, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, February 11, 2018
Required Readings:
- Handout “Should I use ‘I’?” from UNC, Chapel Hill’s Writing Center.
- Hoefferle, The Essential Historiography Reader, 172-188.

Module Five
How Do Historians Study The Past? – Reading Secondary Sources II
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, February 9, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, February 18, 2018
Required Readings:

Module Six
How Do Historians Study The Past? – Documentation is Key
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, February 23, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, February 25, 2018
Required Readings:
- Re-read: Handout “Quotations” from UNC, Chapel Hill’s Writing Center
- Turabian, A Manual for Writers, 135-163.

Module Seven
Assignment: Article Review
Module Eight

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

Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, March 2, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, March 11, 2018

Required Readings:

- Re-read: Webpage “Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Sources” by Virginia Tech University.
- “Understanding Formal Analysis: Elements of Art” from Getty Museum.
- “Berlin Fashion” (1923) and “Sonja” (1928) at German History in Documents and Images.

Module Nine

Spring Break

Module Ten

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

Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, March 9, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, March 25, 2018

Required Readings:

- “Personal Accounts” at World History Sources.

Module Eleven

How Do Historians Study The Past? – Using Primary Sources II

Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, March 23, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, April 1, 2018

Required Readings:

- “Official Documents” at World History Sources.
- “German Basic Law of 1949” at German History in Images and Documents.
Module Twelve
How Do Historians Study The Past? – Using Primary Sources II
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, March 30, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, April 8, 2018
Required Readings:
  • “Newspapers” at World History Sources.

Module Thirteen
2nd Assignment: Primary Source Review
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, April 6, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, April 15, 2018

Module Fourteen
How Do Historians Study The Past? Finding the Right Source to Answer the Right Questions
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, April 13, 2018
Due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, April 22, 2018
No Required Readings

Module Fifteen
Annotated Bibliography
Available after 11:59 PM on Friday, April 13, 2018
Students should use the extra time to work on their annotated bibliographies.

Final Annotated Bibliography is due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, May 6, 2018.