

**History 490  
Summer 2009**

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**Office Hours:  
MW 1:30-2:30, or by appointment**

History 490 serves as the capstone to the history major's course work because it affords the student an opportunity to undertake a project of original research. This seminar is consequently different from most, if not all, history classes in the curriculum. There will be a minimum of lectures, and the student will spend most of the semester researching a topic and writing the seminar paper.

For the paper each student will investigate a topic and devise a thesis statement. High quality papers will rely extensively on primary resources and will also show good familiarity with the historical context of the problem and the relevant secondary literature. Papers will generally run approximately 20 pages in length. To a certain extent, however, the length of the paper is less important than its quality (17 excellent pages are much preferable to 30 good pages or 40 mediocre ones).

Grades for the course will depend primarily, but not exclusively, upon the quality of the seminar paper, both in terms of content and writing. However, class assignments (particularly in meeting deadlines) and participation will also contribute to the overall grade. Each student will present his/her paper in rough-draft form to the class for criticism. This will provide an opportunity for making informed revisions prior to submission of the final draft during the last week of classes. A general breakdown for the components of the final grade is as follows:

Prospectus	10%
Bibliography	10
Critiques	20
Paper	60

It is essential that students meet the deadlines for submission of prospectus, bibliography, initial draft, and critiques, or the final paper will not be ready for the due date. A prospectus or bibliography handed in late will be penalized three points for each day. Any student failing to present an initial draft on the assigned day will be penalized a full letter grade for the course. The final paper will not be accepted after the deadline. Successful completion of the course requires good analytical, research, and writing skills, plus self-discipline. Only under the most extraordinary circumstances (i. e., prolonged hospitalization) will an Incomplete be granted at the end of the semester.

The only text book for the course is Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, The Craft of Research (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995). In addition, we will use Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, which you should have purchased and used when you took History 200. If you do not own a copy, please obtain one from the Bookstore.

While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. See <http://www.byu.edu/honorcode> for specific examples of intentional, inadvertent plagiarism, and fabrication, falsification.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 378-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 378-2847.

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (378-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 378-5895, D-282 ASB.

### **Tentative Class Schedule:**

June 22: Introduction

24: What is historical research?

Read Craft of Research, chapters 1-4

26: No class – Work in library to define a topic for your paper

29: Presentation of initial topic

Read Craft of Research, chapters 5-6 and article by Marks on Blackboard  
find at least one book and one scholarly article on your topic; read them and  
develop 5 possible research questions related to the general topic

July 1: Types of sources

Bring a primary and secondary source related to your topic to class  
Read article by Anderson on Blackboard

3: Holiday

6: Gathering Bibliography

Read article by Burke on Blackboard

8: Note-Taking Techniques

Read articles by Twinam and Chartier on Blackboard

10: **turn in Prospectus electronically via email (no formal class)**

The prospectus should include: an introduction to the historical problem you are researching, a thesis statement, a discussion of how you intend to prove that thesis, and an annotated initial bibliography

- 13: Individual appointments to critique prospectus
- 15: Writing history  
    Craft of Research, chapters 7-11
- 17: appointments
- 20: Some observations on writing history  
    Craft of Research, chapters 12, 13, and 15
- 22: Review of footnotes--uses and formats; bibliography  
    Craft of Research, chapters 14 and 16
- 24: Holiday

Students will present a draft of their papers for critique. Each paper will receive detailed critique from two fellow students. It is crucial that the drafts be completed and available the class period before the class considers them. Thus, the papers for July 29 must be available to the readers on July 27 by 10 a.m., at my office or via email. Thereafter, we will distribute the subsequent papers during the preceding class.

Students who do not present a full draft, with reference notes and annotated bibliography, will not be able to receive sufficient critique to revise their papers satisfactorily.

All students are required to attend each presentation. Failure to do so will result in a reduced grade for the semester.

- 27: No class
- 29: Presentation of 3 papers to class
- 31: Presentation of 3 papers to class
- Aug. 3: Presentation of 3 papers to class
- 5: Presentation of 3 papers to class
- 12: **final draft of paper due**

**Please submit a hard copy and an electronic version of your paper  
Due by 9:30 a.m.**

FINAL NOTE: Please note that we are not scheduled to meet each class period. You consequently need to check the syllabus regularly so that you do not miss class. And remember: *Self-discipline is essential*. You will be working on your own. Do not abuse this freedom, or it will haunt you at the end of the semester. You cannot meet the requirements of the course by waiting until the final month of the semester to do your paper.