



HIST 500: Historiography

Texas A&M University-Texarkana Fall 2025

Wednesdays, 6:00 to 8:45 PM, UC 242

Hybrid, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Hannah L. Jones

Phone: 903-223-6627

Email: hjones@tamut.edu

Office Location: UC 222

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM or by appointment on Zoom

Course Description

Historiography is the study of the principles, theory, and history of historical writing. The first half of this course examines historiography in the broadest sense of the word, with students reading about different perspectives and schools of analysis. The second half of this course focuses on historiography in its narrower sense, requiring students to research a variety of approaches, methods, and interpretations employed by historians on a particular topic. Based on their historiographic and bibliographic research of a selected topic, students are required to write a paper.

Required Textbook and Readings

All assigned readings will be provided as online links or pdfs on our course Canvas page.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- To understand the discipline of historiography and the strategies, techniques and science of historical research and writing.
- To identify the professional standards and skills that go into the work of being a historian.
- To advance historical research and writing skills.
- To learn how to use Chicago-Style citations.

Methods of Evaluation

Response Papers [44 points total, 4 points each]

For eleven of the thirteen weeks that readings are assigned, you must write a one and a half to two page response paper, due at the beginning of class. It should be double-spaced, in 12-point font, and include Chicago-Style citations (footnotes). All papers must be submitted through Canvas. You may decide which two weeks you intend to skip.

Papers should summarize the argument of each reading (broadly, not point-by-point), tie multiple readings together by making textual/thematic/methodological connections, and relate the week's assignment to previous readings in terms of the development of the historical method. Your response papers should also include a handful of questions and critiques that you will bring to the classroom discussion.

Historiography Research Paper [36 points total]

Your final project for the class will be a fifteen-page historiography paper on a topic of your choice. It should include enough books and articles to give the reader a clear sense of the development and current state of the literature on your chosen subject, at least seven (7) distinct secondary sources. **NOTE: You must select your topic within the first 3 weeks of the semester and schedule a meeting with me to receive approval.**

Annotated Bibliography [10 points]

To help you prepare for your research paper, you are required to submit an annotated bibliography during week nine of the semester. You are required to use Chicago-Style citations. The bibliography must include between 7 and 10 peer-reviewed sources that you intend to use in your research paper. Annotations should be at least five to seven sentences long.

Class Participation [10 points]

Class participation is crucial to the dynamics of a small seminar. This grade is based on the notion of a good faith effort to participate, thus respecting the fact that some people are by nature more vocal than others. On the one hand, you must make an effort to contribute; on the other, you must respect the class dynamic by not monopolizing conversation. If you encounter obstacles in your participation, please meet with me so we can work out a solution.

Grading Policy

My grading system is designed to put you in control of your final grade. For each assignment you complete you will accumulate points. The only way to lose points is to miss class. You can earn a total of 100 points for the class. The more points you accumulate, the higher your grade becomes. You can always tell how you are doing by comparing your point total to the scale below.

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C= 70-79 D= 60-69 F= 59 and less

Attendance

Students are expected to attend EVERY class period prepared to discuss the assigned readings. You will be allowed ONE unexcused absence over the course of the semester, and for every absence beyond ONE, I will deduct points from your FINAL GRADE.

Late Work

The response papers are designed to help you prepare for the class discussion each week. It is therefore important that you turn them in on time. However, if you anticipate missing a deadline, for whatever reason, it is best to communicate with me in advance and request an extension. No extensions will be granted for the annotated bibliography or research paper.

Class Etiquette

Students are expected to be respectful of the instructor and their fellow students during any class activities. The following rules of conduct will be followed, or a student may be asked to leave the class:

- If you are attending class virtually, your camera must be turned on.
- Phones must be set to vibrate, or turned off completely, and cannot be used to make calls, send texts, look at social media, etc. during class.
- Be respectful during all class discussions. Insults, *ad hominem* attacks, and purposely inflammatory statements will not be tolerated. If something occurs in this class (or in connection to this class) that makes you feel uncomfortable, please do not hesitate to speak with me during office hours.

What you can expect from me, the professor: *Respectful treatment, as outlined below*

- Accessibility to verbal conversation about the course through office hours or appointments.
- Routine preparation for classroom meetings to ensure the learning material is accessible to you.
- Prompt email responses (normally within 24 hours during the work week, often faster) to questions for which answers have not been provided in writing or orally in class time.
- Feedback on your written work that communicates how you can improve your historical thinking and your writing, as well as the reasons why you earned a particular grade.
- A sympathetic listener to challenges that you are facing in the course. It is normal to find material difficult or frustrating, and I am here to provide support and help you formulate strategies and approaches to overcoming learning obstacles. Please do not hesitate or feel ashamed to discuss problems with me as they arise. It is much better to invest in the course in that way than to feel alienated from it.

What I ask of you, the student: *Respectful treatment, as outlined below*

- Accountability for all material delivered in class sessions and circulated in writing, especially the contents of this syllabus. Please keep in mind that there are many of you and one of me. I should not have to repeat to (many) students individually what I have already shared with the class collectively. More specifically, please consult the syllabus and any material I have circulated to you before emailing me.

- Attentiveness throughout the class sessions. Your engagement and willingness to communicate with your colleagues enriches the classroom experience. It also amplifies your performance and enjoyment of the course. Missing information delivered in class does not warrant a personalized email or private discussion repeating it, unless there is valid justification.
- Completion of reading material assigned for each class session. Your performance in the course and enjoyment of what we are learning is invariably affected by your commitment to the assigned reading. It might feel onerous at first, but the course is designed with an expectation of 12 hours of work a week, the university standard for a graduate level course. If you do the reading consistently, you can expect your reading speed to improve as we progress through the semester.
- A commitment to reading and thinking deeply about the feedback on your submitted written work before completing upcoming written work, as well as before initiating any discussion with me about the grading of written work.
- A commitment to mastering the formal standards of academic historical writing, even if it involves several rounds of revising/editing your essays.
- A willingness to communicate with me about challenges you are confronting in the course. I genuinely want to support you and help you overcome obstacles to your success.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of 'F' in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In this course, AI tools may be used only to assist with brainstorming or proofreading your writing assignments. Any use of AI tools must be fully disclosed in writing and submitted along with the assignment as a separate page. The disclosure must include:

- The name(s) of all AI tool(s) used
- A description of how and to what extent each tool was used
- A clear statement that the student has reviewed and edited the AI-assisted content and accepts full responsibility for the final work

All students are expected to engage honestly in their learning. Submitting AI-generated content without disclosure or representing AI-generated content as entirely one's own original work is considered academic dishonesty. Such actions are subject to the same consequences as plagiarism.

Example Disclosure Statement: "For this assignment, I used ChatGPT to generate possible research paper titles and Grammarly to check grammar and spelling. I critically reviewed all AI-generated content and revised it to reflect my understanding. I take full responsibility for the final submission." A single disclosure per assignment is sufficient, even if multiple AI tools are used, as long as each tool is clearly identified and its use described.

A&M-Texarkana Email Address

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis.

Add/Drop Policy

To drop this course after the census date, a student must complete a Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University Registrar's webpage or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member.

The form must be submitted to the Registrar's office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. **It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission.** If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

Information Technology (IT) Support

For questions on password reset, login issues, and application installation, please refer to IT Helpdesk or Submit a [TeamDynamix](#) ticket.

Learning Management System (Canvas) Support

This course utilizes Canvas, the university's Learning Management System (LMS), for all course materials, announcements, assignments, and communication. You can access Canvas through the university's website or by navigating to the [Canvas portal](#) using your student credentials. For questions on *all web-enhanced and online courses*, please refer to [Technology Innovation and Digital Education \(TIDE\)](#).

Technical Assistance

For questions on *all web-enhanced and online courses*, please refer to [Technology Innovation and Digital Education \(TIDE\)](#).

Disability Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal non-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this law requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Life in UC room 125, or call (903) 223-1351. For additional information visit [Disability Services](#).

Student Conduct and Complaints

The university is committed to maintaining a respectful and safe environment. The [Student Code of Conduct](#) outlines behavioral expectations and disciplinary procedures. If you encounter a concern or issue, you may submit a formal report through the [Student Complaint Process](#). To report an issue related to academic misconduct, you can do so at the [Academic Misconduct](#) page.

Student Resources and Programs

The university enhances student education beyond academics through diverse programs. Students can join clubs (like SGA, Honors, Greek Life), participate in service, experience study abroad, and learn about career services, internships and job opportunities. Visit [Student Resources and Programs](#) to learn about clubs, organizations and student resources.

Stress and Mental Health Resources

Stress and mental health problems are common challenges that people face, but there are options available to help you on campus. We have two Licensed Professional Counselors on staff and a Victims Rights Advocate. We also provide crisis intervention services for individuals facing suicidal or homicidal ideation. For individual and group therapy options, please contact the Student Counseling Center in Central Plant or call for an appointment at 903-223-3186 (office) or 903-276-8276 (cell). For after-hours emergencies, call 911, University Police Department at 903-334-6611, or the local crisis line (AVAIL) at 1-800-832-1009. Other helpful numbers include the local mental health authority: Community Healthcore 903-831-7585, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255, or the National Crisis Text Line at 741741. Please note that you do not have to be suicidal to use a crisis hotline. Any crisis to you is a crisis to us. Faculty and staff encourage you to reach out for help if you need it.

Course Schedule and Assignments

Week 1- Aug 20- Introduction and Course Logistics

Week 2- Aug 27- Power in the Archives

Week 3- Sept 3- The *Annales* School

Don't forget to schedule a meeting to select your research paper topic!

Week 4- Sept 10- Historical Materialism

Week 5- Sept 17- Subaltern Studies and History from Below

Week 6- Sept 24- Anthropology and Cultural History

Week 7- Oct 1- Postmodern Narrative

Week 8- Oct 8- Microhistory

Week 9- Oct 15- Oral History

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE BY 11:59 PM

Week 10- Oct 22- Production of Power/Knowledge

Week 11- Oct 29- Women's History

Week 12- Nov 5- Colonialism and Imperialism

Week 13- Nov 12- Beyond Words: Material History

Week 14- Nov 19- Urban Space

FINAL PAPER DUE ON DECEMBER 3 BY 11:59 PM