

HISTORY 200-02
METHODS: THE STUDY OF HISTORY
SPRING SEMESTER 2009

Instructor: Matthew Hild

Office: Buckman Hall room 206

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00-11:00 AM; Wednesday, noon-1:00 PM; or by appointment

Telephone: (901) 843-3654 (office/voice mail); (901) 843-3662 (History Department)

E-mail: hildm@rhodes.edu

Required books:

Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt, and Margaret Jacob, *Telling the Truth About History*

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 5th ed.

William Strunk, Jr., *The Elements of Style*

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed.

Course description and objectives: This course introduces prospective history majors and minors to the experience of how historians perform their craft. The course will teach students the basic skills of research, historical writing, and historical analysis. Students will be introduced to historiography, the use of primary sources, and ethical issues in history. Written work will be emphasized, and an oral presentation will be required of all students.

Assignments, exams, and grading:

Short paper 15%

--This will be a four-to-five page typed, double-spaced paper; see week four below for details.

Research paper 30%

--This will be an eight-to-ten page (plus endnotes and works cited) typed, double-spaced paper based upon research in primary and secondary sources.

Oral presentation 20%

--This will be a fifteen-to-twenty minute, in-class presentation of your research paper.

Final exam 20%

--This will be a take-home exam covering the concepts and themes of the course.

Class participation 15%

--This portion of your grade will be based upon your participation in class discussions (and whether that participation reflects reading of the assignments as applicable). More than three unexcused absences will adversely affect this component of your course grade.

Assignments will not be accepted after the due date except in the event of excused absences (written medical excuse, death in the family, or jury duty or court summons).

A=92.50 or above; A-=89.50-92.49; B+=86.50-89.49; B=82.50-86.49; B-=79.50-82.49; C+=76.50-79.49; C=72.50-76.49; C-=69.50-72.49; D+=66.50-69.49; D=62.50-66.49; D-=59.50-62.49; F= 59.49 or below

Classroom etiquette: All participants in this class (student and instructor alike) will be expected to refrain from rude or disruptive behavior in class, to keep their cell phones turned off in class, and to stay awake in class.

Academic honesty: All assignments and examinations in this course must be done in compliance with the Rhodes College Honor Code.

Disability services: Any student needing accommodations in this course for a disability should consult with the Office of Student Disability Services (901-843-3994), located in the modular building behind McCoy Theater.

This syllabus provides a general plan for this course; deviations may be necessary. If any deviations are necessary, they will be announced in class.

Schedule of assignments, due dates, etc.:

(The reading assignment(s) listed for any given date should be completed **before** class meets that day.)

January 15 Course introduction

January 20 Read Rampolla, chap. 1; Appleby et al., Introduction and chap. 1.

January 22 Class will meet in Barret Library, room 128 for library orientation session with Bill Short, Coordinator of Public Services for the Barret Library.

January 27 Read Rampolla, chaps. 2-3.

January 29 Read Appleby et al., chap. 2.

February 3 Read Appleby et al., chaps. 4-5.

February 5 Read handouts: “The Rise of Consensus History” and “The New History and Its Promoters” by Peter Charles Hoffer.

Short paper due on February 5 (summary and analysis of the Hoffer handouts).

February 10 and 12 Class will not meet; instead students will meet individually with instructor (in Buckman 206) to discuss research paper. Bring a one-to-two page typed, double-spaced prospectus of your paper and a preliminary bibliography.

February 17 Read Rampolla, chaps. 4 and 5.

February 19 Read *The Elements of Style*; also bring the Turabian book to class.

February 24 Read Rampolla, chap. 6 and handout (“Plagiarism: The Cases of Stephen Ambrose and Doris Kearns Goodwin” by Peter Charles Hoffer).

February 26 Read handout (“Falsification: The Case of Michael Bellesiles” by Hoffer); also bring the Turabian book to class.

March 3 No reading assignment; we will discuss research and research methods.

March 5 Read Appleby et al., chaps. 3-4.

March 10 Read Rampolla, chap.7, and bring the Turabian book to class.

March 12 Read Appleby et al., chap. 5. **Rough drafts of research papers are due at the beginning of class.**

March 24 Read Appleby et al., chap. 6.

March 26 Open period—class will not meet but students who wish to do so are encouraged to bring their rough drafts to instructor for discussion.

March 31 Read Appleby et al., chap. 7.

April 2 No reading assignment—we will discuss the oral presentations.

April 7 Read Appleby, chap. 8.

April 14 Oral presentations; **final drafts of research papers are due at the beginning of class. Also submit your rough draft with your final draft.**

April 16 Oral presentations

April 21 Oral presentations

April 23 Oral presentations

April 28 Oral presentations

April 30 Class wrap-up, distribution of take-home final exams.

Take-home final exam due no later than Tuesday, May 5, 1:00 PM.