Spring 2-1-2019

HSTA 461.01: Research in Montana History

Jeffrey M. Wiltse
University of Montana - Missoula, jeffrey.wiltse@umontana.edu

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HSTA 461: Research in Montana History
Professor Jeff Wiltse
LA 251 / jeffrey.wiltse@umontana.edu
Office Hours: T: 9-10, Th: 1-2

Course Description and Learning Objectives

This course is a research seminar in Montana history. Students will learn advanced research methodology in history and become familiar with a variety of databases and source collections useful for researching Montana history. Students will research and write a twenty-page, primary-source based paper on a topic in Montana history. This course fulfills the Advanced Writing (AW) requirement for the history department and the university. The primary learning objectives for this course are:

1. Become an expert on a selected topic in Montana history
2. Make an original contribution to historical knowledge
3. Develop skills fundamental to the historical discipline, including:
   - Conduct primary and second source research
   - Critically assess and analyze primary sources
   - Engage with the interpretive conclusions of other scholars
   - Write a sophisticated, argument-driven research paper
   - Review and comment on the work of peers
   - Present findings in an oral presentation

Readings


You will also read an article, a short book excerpt, and several resources specific to Montana history that are available as PDF files on the course Moodle page. They are marked by a “(x)” in the course schedule.

Assignments and Grading

There are several assignments required in this class, all of which build upon one another and are designed to help you produce a successful research paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article Analysis</td>
<td>Due Tuesday, January 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source Collections Assignment</td>
<td>Due Tuesday, February 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Proposal</td>
<td>Due Thursday, February 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Sources Assignment</td>
<td>Due Tuesday, February 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Findings Assignment</td>
<td>Due Tuesday, March 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Intro &amp; Outline</td>
<td>Due Thursday, March 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised Intro &amp; 8 Pages</td>
<td>Due Thursday, April 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Draft</td>
<td>Due Sunday, April 14, by 10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 23, or Thursday, April 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Version</td>
<td>Due Wednesday, May 1 by 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You must take this course for a grade. Your final grade will be the weighted average of your individual grades for the term. Final letter grades are figured at 90%=A, 80%=B, 70%=C, 60%=D. The dividing line for minuses is _3%; the dividing line for pluses is _7%. Your grades will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Grade Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article Analysis &amp; Source Collections</td>
<td>5 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Proposal</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Sources Assignment</td>
<td>5 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Findings Assignment</td>
<td>5 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro &amp; Outline</td>
<td>5 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised Intro &amp; Eight Pages</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Draft</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>35 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; Oral Presentation</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Attendance is required. If you have more than two unexcused absence during the semester, you will receive an F for class participation.

**Academic Honesty**

Neither plagiarism nor any form of cheating will be tolerated. The work you submit in this course must be your own. When you draw from the words and thoughts of others, acknowledge it in footnotes. Plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade for the course. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.

**Drop Deadlines**

The last day to drop a class by Cyberbear is January 31. The last day to drop with instructor and advisor signature is March 15. A WP or WF will appear on your transcript for courses dropped after this date. April 26 is the last day to drop this class.

**Course Schedule**

- **Thu, Jan. 10:** Course Introduction and Overview
- **Tue, Jan. 15:** Anatomy of an Article: Argument, Evidence, and Historiographical Contribution
- **Thu, Jan. 17:** Mansfield Library Resources in Montana History
  Read: (x) Presnell, *The Information-Literate Historian*, 4-11.
  (x) “Mansfield Library Resources in Montana History”
- **Tue, Jan. 22:** Subject Areas in Montana History
  Read: (x) “Chronological Overview of Montana History Subject Areas”
Thu, Jan. 24: Finding a Promising Topic and Conducting Preliminary Research  
Read: Storey, Writing History, 1-31.

Tue, Jan. 29: Researching Montana History in the K. Ross Toole Archives  
*In preparation for today’s class, explore the online catalog for the UM Archives on the “Archives West” webpage.

Thu, Jan. 31: Researching Montana History in Online Databases

Tue, Feb. 5: Discuss Source Collections  
Source Collection Assignment Due

Thu, Feb. 7: Individual Meetings to Discuss Research Topics

Tue, Feb. 12: No class—Work on Research Proposals

Thu, Feb. 14: Present Research Proposals  
Research Proposal Assignment Due

Tue, Feb. 19: Mechanics of Historical Research  
Read: Storey, Writing History, 32-61.

Thu, Feb. 21: Individual Meetings to Discuss Research Proposals

Tue, Feb. 26: Presentation on Secondary Sources  
Secondary Source Assignment Due

Thu, Feb. 28: No class—Conduct research

Tue, Mar. 5: No class—Conduct research

Thu, Mar. 7: Introduction, Outline, and Historical Argumentation  
Read: Storey, Writing History, 62-97.

Tue, Mar. 12: Present Research Findings  
Research Findings Assignment Due

Thu, Mar. 14: Individual Meetings to Discuss Progress

Tue, Mar. 19: The Craft of Historical Writing and Revising  
Read: Storey, Writing History, 98-130.

Thu, March 21: Discuss Intro and Outline in Research Groups  
Intro/Outline Assignment Due

Tue, March 26: No class—Spring Break

Thu, March 28: No class—Spring Break

Tue, Apr. 2: Optional Individual Meetings
Thu, Apr. 4:  Discuss Revised Intro and Eight Pages in Research Groups  
Assignment Due

Tue, Apr. 9:  No class—Write full draft

Thu, Apr. 11:  No class—Write full draft

*Email full draft to Professor Wiltse by 10:00 pm on Sunday, April 14

Tue, Apr. 16:  Individual Meetings to Discuss Full Drafts

Thu, Apr. 18:  Individual Meetings to Discuss Full Drafts

Tue, April 23:  Research Presentations

Thu, April 25:  Research Presentations

*Email final paper to Professor Wiltse by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 1