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Fall 9-1-2021

### HSTR 200.02: Introduction to Historical Methods

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**HSTR 200**  
**Professor Mehrdad Kia**  
**Introduction to Historical Methods**  
**Tuesday, 12:00-12:50 PM**  
**Phone: (406) 396-1143**  
**Email: mehrdad.kia@mso.umt.edu**

### **Course Description**

This course introduces students to the practice of history and prepares them for upper-division courses in the field. Students will learn to conduct library research, familiarize themselves with electronic databases, analyze primary sources, read secondary sources critically, write clear and convincing historical prose, and cite sources in Chicago style.

### **Readings**

*What Is History?* Author: Edward Hallett Carr

*On History.* Author: Eric Hobsbawm

*The Historian's Craft: Reflections on the Nature and Uses of History and the Techniques and Methods of Those Who Write It.* Author: Marc Bloch

Copies of the textbooks are available at the UM bookstore.

### **Assignments, Grading, and Expectations**

- Exercises and Paper Assignments (90% of your final grade)
  1. Paper on Carr (October 5, 2021)
  2. Paper on Hobsbawm (November 16, 2021)
  3. Research Proposal and Bibliography (December 7, 2021)
- You will write a draft research proposal on a topic of your choice connected in some way to the holdings in the Mansfield Library and building off of the available sources you will examine the research

questions and theses you have formulated. The proposal should indicate your research question(s), how your project would fit into the existing historiography on the topic, and (briefly) some sense of the significance of your project. In addition to the proposal, prepare a bibliography with a total of at least 20 sources (both primary and secondary), formatted in Chicago Style. Accompanying the bibliography, on a separate sheet, include 2-3 sentences per source indicating the advantages/insights of each source and the potential limitations. What are the advantages and possible shortcomings of each source you include? What aspect of the question would each source allow you to answer (i.e., does it provide background on the historiography of the question? does it include valuable first-person perspectives on the question? etc.)

- We will discuss your draft research proposal with your classmates for feedback and comments. You will submit your revised and final version of the proposal during finals week.

Attendance and participation (10% of final grade)

All paper assignments will be turned in on time in class; late assignments will NOT be accepted

All paper assignments will be typed and printed. Use 12-point font and standard margins. Proofread carefully before submission.

This course meets only once a week. Your attendance and active participation are essential. I expect that you will come to class having read the assigned readings carefully. More than 2 absences will result in loss of one grade.

## **Course Schedule**

**1: What is History and What Do Historians Do?**

**2: How Historians Work**

**3: What is Historiography?**

**4: Research Proposal, Bibliography, and Citing Sources in Historical Writing**