HSTR 200.01: Introduction: Historical Methods

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HSTR 200: Introduction to Historical Methods
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Office hours: W: 1:00-1:50; F: 11:00-12:30

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

This one-credit course introduces students to the skills and methods fundamental to the historical discipline and prepares them for upper-division courses in history. Students will learn how to conduct historical research, analyze historical documents, and write historical essays.

Readings

The following book is available at the bookstore. It is a required text for the course.

Margaret MacMillan, Dangerous Games: The Uses and Abuses of History

The other course readings are available as pdf files on the course Moodle page. They are marked with an “(x)” in the course schedule below. Print the readings, study them, and bring them to class so you can reference them during discussions.

Course Requirements

You are expected to read all course materials, attend each class meeting, actively participate in class discussions, and complete all assignments. You must take this course for a grade. Your grade will be weighted as follows:

Attendance, participation, and reading quizzes: 30 percent
Primary Source Description 10 percent
Arrival of Non-Indians Assignment 15 percent
Social History in Early American Cities Paper 15 percent
Archival Source Exploration Paper 30 percent

Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. The work you submit in this course must be your own. Plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade for the course.

DSS Accommodation

If you have a documented learning disability, please contact me so we can arrange reasonable accommodation for you.
Drop Deadlines

The last day to drop this course using Cyberbear is February 9. The last day to drop with instructor and advisor signature is April 2. A WP or WF will appear on your transcript for courses dropped after this date. May 4 is the last day to drop by petition.

Course Schedule

Mon, Jan. 22: Course Introduction

Mon, Jan. 29: The Uses and Abuses of History I
Read: MacMillan, Dangerous Games, ix-xi, 3-11, 35-78.

Mon, Feb. 5: The Uses and Abuses of History II
Read: MacMillan, Dangerous Games, 113-170.

Mon, Feb. 12: Sources for Studying the Past
Read: (x) Anthony Brundage, Going to the Sources, 19-32.
       (x) Jenny Presnell, The Information-Literate Historian, 112-134.

Mon, Feb. 19: No class (President’s Day)

Mon, Feb. 26: Primary Sources in the Mansfield Library

       *Due: Primary Sources Description Assignment

Mon, Mar. 5: Analyzing Primary Sources I
Read: (x) Arrival of Non-Indians to Montana Documents

Mon, Mar. 12: Formulating and Supporting Interpretive Arguments I

       *Due: Arrival of Non-Indians Assignment

Mon, Mar. 19: Analyzing Primary Sources II
Read: (x) Social History in Early American Cities Documents

Mon, Mar. 26: No Class (Spring Break)

Mon, Apr. 2: Formulating and Supporting Interpretive Arguments II

       *Due: Social History in Early American Cities Paper

Mon, Apr. 9: Researching in Online Databases

Mon, Apr. 16: Digging in the Archives w/Donna McCrea (Meet in Mansfield Library Archives)
Mon, Apr. 23: No class  (Work on Archival Source Exploration assignment)

Mon, Apr. 30: In-class Discussion of Archival Findings

*Due: Archival Source Exploration Paper*