

The Historian's Craft:

Methodology

HIST 2303

MW 12:30-1:50

Pafford 206

Instructor:

Dr. McCullers

TLC 3225

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Office Hours: MW 2:30-4:30

Course Overview & Objectives:

This course explores what historians “do” and how and why they do it. This is a skills development course that introduces students to both historical research methods as well as different fields of history. This course is required for history majors. In order to graduate with a degree in history, you must earn a C or higher in this class. By the end of this course, students will be able to locate and critically analyze primary and secondary sources, cite sources correctly in Chicago format, ask historical questions and craft historical arguments based on primary sources, and to think historically.

Required Texts:

- John Aberth, *The Black Death: The Great Mortality of 1348-1350: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford St. Martins, 2005).
- Ken Bain, *What the Best College Students Do* (Harvard UP, 2012).

- Natalie Z. Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre* (Harvard UP, 1983).
- Robert Gordon, *Picturing Bushmen: The Denver Africa Expedition of 1925* (Ohio UP, 1997).
- Robert T. McKenzie, *The First Thanksgiving: What the Real Story Tells us about Loving God and Learning from History* (IVP Academic, 1982).

Policies:

Attendance: Attending class is essential to doing well. You are permitted two unexcused absences. Exceeding two unexcused absences will negatively impact your grade (1/3 of a letter grade for each additional unexcused absence)

- Please let me know ahead of time if you know you will be absent.
- You are responsible for all missed work.
- I do not give out lecture notes.
- I will be happy to meet with you during my office hours to discuss anything about which you have questions.

Participation: Students learn best by actively participating in class. Participation grades are **not based on attendance** (though you must be present to participate) but include paying attention, asking and answering questions, and taking notes.

Participation grades are given based on my discretion.

Late Work: Except under extenuating circumstances, I **do not give extensions** on assignments. Late work will be penalized **10 points** for each **12 hour** period it is late. All assignments must be completed to pass the class.

Re-scheduling: I do not reschedule quizzes or exams unless you have a legitimate need. Quizzes and exams should be rescheduled **BEFORE** the exam date. Make-up quizzes and tests after the set date will only be given in extreme circumstances.

Technology: using your phone in class is not acceptable, except for the homework question. **Computers are only allowed in the first and last 2 rows of the classroom.**

Computers should be used to take notes and look at readings on Course Den.

Surfing, chatting, shopping, and doing work for other classes are not acceptable and may result in the loss of your privilege of using your computer in class.

UWG Email Policy: University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating

important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. **It is your responsibility to check your email.** Only email me in Course Den.

Accommodations: If you require accommodations, **it is your responsibility to provide me with documentation** from the office of accessibility services. It is **also your responsibility to make arrangements for extra time, alternative testing locations, etc., and to remind me in advance.** I cannot provide accommodations without University documentation.

Academic Honesty: All work must abide by the UWG honor code. All work must be completed independently unless otherwise specified and must be original. The UWG Honor Code is in force at all times. Each student is responsible for understanding the nature of, and rules regarding, academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course. **All work must be pledged at the top and signed assignments physically handed in.**

University Policies: Please see the following link for a complete listing of University policies -

[http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common Language for Course Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common%20Language%20for%20Course%20Syllabi.pdf)

Grading:

- I do not discuss grades within **48 hours** of returning assignments
- I **do not change grades** except in cases of a mathematical error – NO

EXCEPTIONS

- It is against university policy to discuss grades via email. If you would like to discuss your grades, please come by my office hours

Assignments:

Term Paper: The main assignment for this course is the writing of a term paper based on primary sources about the Black Death of the 14th century. There are several assignments related to the writing of this paper including an outline and annotated bibliography, rough drafts, a formal bibliography, an oral presentation, and finally the completed paper.

Citation Exercise: Students will complete an assignment on Chicago-style citations. This assignment will not be graded (but will be counted as a zero) and will be returned to be re-done until it is 100% correct.

Formatting: All assignments must be formatted according to the following guidelines. Papers which are not properly formatted will automatically be penalized by one full letter grade.

- Heading at the top left with Student's Name, the date, my name (Dr. McCullers), the course number (HIST 2302), and the assignment.
- Honor Pledge in on the first page header
- A meaningful/correct title.
- One-inch margins
- Double Spacing
- Times New Roman 12-point font
- Last Name & page number in the bottom right footer for assignments over 1 page. Do not put this on the first page.
- Chicago Style footnotes where appropriate

Spelling and Grammar: ALL WRITING IS FORMAL WRITING. Spelling and grammar always count. Contractions will each result in a one-point deduction from the grade of an assignment.

Please turn in assignments in class unless specifically directed to also turn them in on course den.

Grade Distribution:

Attendance – 2.5%

Participation – 10%

Taking Control of Ed Assignments – 10%

Research & Writing Assignments – 47.5%

Presentation – 10%

Final Paper – 20%

Due Dates & Points:

8/26 – Primary Source Analysis 1 (20 pts)	(20 pts)
8/31– Revised Primary Source Analysis 1 (20 pts)	9/28 – Draft of thesis statement & introduction (100 pts)
8/31 – Learning Styles Quiz (30 pts)	9/30 – Three questions for historians (10 pts)
9/2 – Research Question (20 pts)	10/5 – Draft of 3 body paragraphs (100 pts)
9/9 – Time Management Assignment 1 (50 pts)	10/12 – Revised thesis statement and introduction (100 pts)
9/9 – Library Scavenger Hunt & Monograph (30 pts)	10/19 – Revised body paragraphs (100 pts)
9/9 – Bain assignment chs. 3-4 (20 pts)	10/19 – Chicago Style assignment (70 pts)
9/14 – Primary sources for Term Paper (20 pts)	10/21 – Draft of conclusion (20 pts)
9/16 – Time Management Assignment 2 (50 pts)	11/2 – Complete draft of term paper 1 (150 pts)
9/16 – Bain assignment chs. 5-6 (20 pts)	11/4 – Draft of bibliography (30 pts)
9/21 – Outline & Annotated Bibliography (50 pts)	11/16 – Complete draft of term paper 2 (150 pts)
9/23 – Bain assignment chs. 7-8	

11/18 – Presentation outline

(20 pts)

Participation – 200 pts

Attendance – 50pts

11/30 & 12/2 – Presentations

(200 pts)

12/5 – Final Paper

(400 pts)

TOTAL – 2000 points

Schedule

Week 1:

Monday 8/24 – Introduction: History, Historians, Historiography and You

- Survey
- Discuss what it means to “do history” & what historians actually “do”

Homework:

- Aberth: Preface, Introduction, pp. 11-14, 23-27, 37-40, 67-70, 94-97, 117-121, 139-141, 160-164, 169-171
- Select & analyze 3 excerpts from above. Using these 3 sources, write a 1-page essay about the Black Death. Submit on Course Den by noon on Wednesday & bring a paper copy to class

Wednesday 8/26 – Jumping In – Thinking about the Black Death & Sources

- Grammar – Parts of Speech
- Discuss Aberth and how to analyze Sources

Homework:

- Bain – Chapters 1 & 2
- Learning Styles Quiz
- Re-write source analysis based on class discussion

Week 2:

Monday 8/31 – Taking Control of Your Education Part 1

- Grammar – Parts of a Sentence, Sentence Construction, Run-ons & Fragments
- Discuss Survey Results
- Discuss Bain, chs. 1&2

Homework:

- Document how you spend your time for 1 week & do a 1-2 page write up which addresses the following (Due in class Weds. Sept. 9):
 1. How you spent your time

2. What you learned about how you spend time that you may not have realized before
 3. Specific ways you can optimize & improve your time management
- Write a 1-2 sentence research question about the Black Death – this will form the basis for your term paper (Due in class Wed. Sept. 2)

Wednesday 9/2 – Thinking about Research and Writing Part 1: Devising a Historical Question

- Grammar – punctuation
- What is a historical Question and how do we write one?
- Thinking about the future – What are you interested in historically and how to make that work for you?
- Library orientation

Homework:

- Library Scavenger Hunt
- Locate & check out 1 monograph on the Black Death/Bubonic Plague (bring to class Weds)
- Bain Chs. 3 & 4 & Complete assignment on work-life-school balance & on failure (Due in class Weds 9/9)

- Complete analysis of time management results

Week 3:

Monday 9/7 – Labor Day Holiday – ***No Class ***

Wednesday 9/9 – Taking Control of your education part 2

- Grammar: agreement and tenses
- Learning to Read (bring in monograph)
- Discuss results of time management assignment
- Discuss Bain chs. 3-4 & Assignment

Homework:

- Select three primary sources to use for term paper. In 1 paragraph describe the sources and how they relate to your historical question (Due in class Monday 9/14)
- Create ideal schedule & try to stick to it for 1 week (Due in class Weds 9/16)

Week 4:

Monday 9/14 – Finding & Using Primary Sources

- Grammar: Contractions
- Discuss Term Paper – Outline & Annotated Bibliography
- Special Collections Orientation

Homework:

- Bain chs. 5-6 & complete assignment on messy problems & encouragement (Due Weds 9/16)
- Complete ideal schedule & analysis (Due Weds)
- Begin working on annotated bibliography & outline of term paper (Due in class & on Course Den by noon, Monday 9/21)

Wednesday 9/16 – Taking Control of Your Education Part 3

- Grammar – Passive Voice
- Discuss Ideal Schedule results
- Discuss Bain Chs. 5 – 6 & assignment
- Answer Questions about outline & annotated bibliography

Homework:

- Complete outline & annotated bibliography

Week 5:

Monday 9/21 – Thinking about Source-Driven Historical Writing

- Grammar – Thesis statements (Fact statements vs. Analysis & opinion vs. argument)
- Transforming a Historical Question into a Thesis statement
- Letting sources drive your argument
- Moving from an outline to a paper - Introductions

Homework:

- Draft thesis statement & introduction for term paper (Due Mon. 9/28),
- Bain chs. 7-8 & Assignment on curiosity, education, & hard choices, revise source analysis (Due 9/23)

Wednesday 9/23 – Taking Control of your education part 4

- Grammar – Slang & Informal Language
- Discuss Bain Chs. 7-8 & Assignment
- Answer questions about thesis statements & introductions

Homework:

- Complete draft thesis statement & introduction
- *The Return of Martin Guerre*, chs. 1-6 (Due Mon)

Week 6:

Monday 9/28 – Source Driven Writing Part 2

- Grammar – What makes a Paragraph? Topic, Transition, & Concluding Sentences
- The 5-paragraph essay
- Discuss *The Return of Martin Guerre*, 1-6

Homework:

- 'Draft 3 body paragraphs of term paper
(Due Mon. 10/5)
- *The Return of Martin Guerre*, chs. 7- Epilogue
(Due Mon 10/5)
- Come up with 3 questions for historians
(Due Weds. 9/30)

Wednesday 9/30 – Taking Control of Your Education - What do historians do, how, and why?

- Grammar – Common Mistakes to Avoid
- Answer Questions about body paragraphs
- Roundtable with Drs. Bohannon, McKinnon, & Chalifoux

Homework:

- Complete draft of body paragraphs
- Complete *The Return of Martin Guerre*

Week 7 –

Monday 10/5 – Source Driven Writing Part 3

- Grammar – Organization & Flow (Thesis, antithesis, synthesis)
- Discuss *The Return of Martin Guerre* chs. 7- Epilogue

Homework:

- Revise thesis & intro (Due 10/12)

Wednesday 10/7 – Taking Control of Your Education: Study Abroad

- Grammar – Quotes

- Guest Speaker – Dr. Lipp

Homework:

- Complete revisions of thesis & intro
- Begin Reading *Picturing Bushmen*, Intro & chs. 1-3

Week 8 –

Monday 10/12– Chicago Style

- Grammar – Chicago Style
- Peer review revised thesis & intro

Homework:

- Chicago Style Assignment (Due Mon. 10/19)
- Revise body paragraphs (Due Mon. 10/19)
- Complete *Picturing Bushmen*, Intro & chs. 1-3

Wednesday 10/14 – Alternative Sources - Photos

- Grammar – Voice & Tone
- Discuss *Picturing Bushmen*, Intro & chs. 1-3

Homework:

- Complete Chicago Style assignment

- Complete revisions of *body paragraphs*
- *Picturing Bushmen*, chs. 4-7 & Conclusion

Week 9

Monday 10/19- Alternative Sources – Photos II

- Grammar: Conclusions
- Peer Review *body paragraphs*
- Discuss *Picturing Bushmen*, chs. 4-7 & Conclusion

Homework:

- Draft Conclusion (Due 10/21)
- Center for Public History Webpage

Wednesday 10/21 – Taking Control of Education – Public History

- Grammar – Style
- Peer Review *draft conclusions*
- Guest Speaker – Keri Adams

Homework:

- Reading on Music, TBA
- Complete draft of term paper (due Mon. 11/2)

Week 10:

Monday 10/26 – Alternative Sources: Music

- Grammar – Word Choice
- Guest Speaker – Dr. Goodson

Homework:

- Continue working on complete draft of term paper

Wednesday 10/28 – Taking Control of Education - Senior Seminar

- Grammar – Revisiting Paragraphs & Tense
- Answer questions about paper drafts
- Guest Speaker – Dr. D. Williams

Homework:

- Complete draft of term paper

Week 11:

Monday 11/2 – Alternative Sources: Data

- Grammar – Chicago Style Bibliography
- Guest Speaker – Jesse Cucksee

Homework:

- Draft the bibliography for your term paper (Due Weds. 11/4)
- Oral History reading TBA

Wednesday 11/4 – Alternative Sources: Oral History

- Peer Review of bibliography
- Guest Speaker – Dr. McCleary

Homework:

- The First Thanksgiving, Intro & chs. 1-2
- Revise term paper (Draft 2 due 11/16)

Week 12:

Monday 11/9 – Putting it all together – *The First Thanksgiving* Part 1

- Grammar - Perspective, bias, and position
- Discuss *The First Thanksgiving*, Intro & chs. 1-2

Homework:

- *The First Thanksgiving* chs. 3-5
- Continue revising draft 2 of term paper

Wednesday 11/11– Putting it all together – *The First Thanksgiving* Pt. 2

- Beginning to think about presentations
- Discuss *The First Thanksgiving*, chs. 3-5

Homework:

- *The First Thanksgiving*, chs. 6-8
- Continue revising draft 2 of term paper
- Make a list of 5 things that make a good presentations and 5 things that make for a not so good presentation

Week 13

Monday 11/16 – Putting it all together – *The First Thanksgiving* Pt. 3

- Discuss draft 2
- Discuss presentation lists
- Discuss *The First Thanksgiving*, chs. 6-8

Homework:

- Come up with a presentation outline
- Professors' Guide to Presentations
<http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/professors-guide/2010/02/24/15-strategies-for-giving-oral-presentations>
- Begin final draft of term paper

Wednesday 11/18 – Class Presentations – How to & How not to

- Discuss presentation strategies
- Go over presentation criteria & grading
- Trial runs in small groups

Homework:

- Prepare & practice your presentation
- Continue working on final draft of term paper

Week 14 – Presentations

Monday 11/30 – Presentations pt. 1

Wednesday 12/2 – Presentations pt. 2

Final Paper due Friday 12/5 @ 5pm in Course Den

Final Exam Wednesday, Dec. 9 @ 11 am