

# METHODOLOGY

HIST 2302-01, Fall 2018. Nursing 122, MW 12:30-1:45 PM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

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Office hours: Tu and Th 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, or by appointment

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## Description

This course is an examination of history as a discipline and as a craft, concentrating on the research and interpretive skills used by historians. It will introduce you to what history is, what historians do, and how they do it. This is a required course for all history majors, and you must earn a "C" or higher in order to graduate.

You will learn skills of research, writing, and analysis and ways of thinking about the past which will be valuable for all of your history classes. These include knowledge of historiography, book reviews, bibliographic essays, and research papers.

Students will learn how to use primary sources to understand the historical past. Your writing will be assessed on your ability to (1) assert a thesis making a historical claim worth arguing about; (2) cite sources correctly; (3) sustain the thesis with evidence from the source; (4) write using standard English; and (5) think historically.

## Learning Outcomes

As a required course for History Majors, this course will reinforce the Learning Outcomes of the History Department:

- Demonstrate content knowledge of history
- Analyze primary and secondary sources for their historical content and interpretations
- Demonstrate ability to research according to historical methods
- Demonstrate writing skills that reflect persuasive historical arguments based on evidence and proper citation

We believe that these learning outcomes will contribute to your ability to think historically, which includes:

- understanding the people of the past
- understanding the perspectives of historical actors and to view those historical actors from a critical, scholarly perspective
- recognizing that people, events, ideas, and cultures have influenced later people events, ideas, and cultures
- recognizing that history involves both change and continuity over time
- explaining connections between particular people, events, ideas, or texts and their historical contexts

## Grading

Your grade will consist of the following:

Historiographical assignment	10%
Wineburg review	10%
Citations quiz	5%
Bibliographic essay	30%
Research paper	35%
Participation	10%

Written work handed in late will be graded according to its quality and will have 2 points deducted if turned in after the class meeting when it is due, with a further 2 points deducted for each 24-hour period that has elapsed since the class in which it was due. If you will absent from class on the day something is due you must send your work as an e-mail attachment before the end of the normal class period to receive full credit. In all other cases, you must turn in a paper copy of your work.

## University-Wide Policies

Please refer to the following document for additional information on university-wide policies that apply to this class:

<https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php>

## Required Books

Wayne C. Booth, et al. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press, 2016 (4<sup>th</sup> edition)  
9780226239736

Sam Wineburg. *Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts*. Temple University Press, 2001  
ISBN 9781566398565

## Course Schedule

Aug. 15	Why study history?
Aug. 20	What are history and historiography?
Aug. 22	What are history and historiography?, continued
Aug. 27	Writing a book review Choose a book on history from the library

Aug. 29 Discussion

Sept. 3 Labor Day (NO CLASS)

Sept. 5 **Historiographic essay due (First draft)**

Sept. 10 Historical thinking

Sept. 12 Expanding your initial question  
**Historiographic essay due (Final version)**

Sept. 17 Finding and using sources

Sept. 19 Identifying and dealing with bias

Sept. 24 Making an argument  
**Book Review of Wineburg due**

Sept. 26 Finding resources in the library: Anne Barnhart

Oct. 1 Practicing citations  
**Citations quiz**

Oct. 3 Guest presentations on social and elite histories

Oct. 8 **Bibliographic Essay due (First draft)**

Oct. 10 NO CLASS due to conference

Oct. 15 Improving your bibliographic essay

Oct. 17 Improving your bibliographic essay

Oct. 22 **Bibliographic Essay due (Final version)**

Oct. 24 Guest presentation on public and digital history

Oct. 29 Understanding the stages of writing a research paper

Oct. 31 Planning your paper and managing your time

Nov. 5 Special Collections: Blynne Olivieri

- Nov. 7 Organizing your paper and incorporating sources
- Nov. 12 Introductions and conclusions
- Nov. 14 **Research Paper due (First draft)**
- Nov. 19-21 Thanksgiving Break (NO CLASSES)
- Nov. 26 Revise research papers
- Nov. 28 Research paper presentations
- Dec. 3 Research paper presentations
- Dec. 5 Research paper presentations
- Dec. 10 **Research Paper due (Final version)** by 5:00 pm
- Dec. 17 Final grades will be submitted by 12:00 noon