

**SENIOR SEMINAR  
HIST 4484W  
MONDAY 5:30-8:15 PAFFORD 204  
DR. STEPHANIE M. CHALIFOUX**

Office: TLC 3202

Office Hours: Mon: 1:30-5pm

Tues: 1-4pm

Wed: 1:30-4pm

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will offer advanced history majors the opportunity to conduct original independent historical research. Students will learn about historical research methods, develop their own topic, compile a research plan, identify relevant primary sources and secondary literature, and complete a variety of assignments during the semester culminating in 20-25 page research paper on their topic.

**PREREQUISITES:** All students taking this course are required to have successfully completed HIST 2302 and have senior standing. Any student who has not completed these prerequisites must meet with the instructor.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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 Analyze primary and secondary sources for their historical content and interpretations.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

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

This class will meet regularly and will be part lecture, discussion, and brainstorming. We will explore resources on campus to assist in your research including library databases, special collections, and consulting with specialists in the department.

**Research Paper:** You are required to complete a 20-25 page paper that includes discipline specific formatting, footnotes, and a bibliography.

**Readings and other assignments:** You will be required to read sections from the assigned text, a few articles, and peer work for this course. You will also submit various assignments that relate to your research project. Please see the **Schedule of Lectures and Assignments** for detailed information. All assignments must be completed by the beginning of class. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED TO PASS THIS COURSE.**

**Participation:** A portion of your grade is based on participation in class discussions about your work and the work of your peer's. Your input is valuable and crucial to your grade. Be prepared to talk or be prepared to receive a failing grade for this requirement.

**Attendance: Attendance is mandatory.** I will take attendance every class and absences exceeding those outlined below will result in a lower final grade. Students are limited to one (1) free absence. I make no distinction between an excused or unexcused absence. Beginning with the second absence, students' final grade will be lowered by three-points for each absence. Any student with more than three (3) absences will automatically fail the course. **Missing a scheduled individual meeting with the instructor will count as an absence. I strongly advise you not to miss class. Each meeting will cover critical information on research methods.**

**NOTE: YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT ALL ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THIS COURSE. MISSING CLASS WILL NOT EXCUSE YOU FROM AN ASSIGNMENT.**

**Extracurricular Conflicts:** Students who are involved in extracurricular activities that will occasionally require them to miss class *must provide their travel schedule well in advance of the expected absence. They must also arrange to make up any missed assignments before they leave. Failure to do so will result in absence penalty.*

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY:** All acts of dishonesty in any work you submit constitute an act of academic misconduct. This includes first and foremost cheating and plagiarism. If you commit academic dishonesty, (plagiarism or cheating) you will **FAIL** this course. There are no second chances. In addition, I will submit students who cheat or plagiarize to the University of West Georgia's Academic Dishonesty Tracking System.

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** A good learning environment requires that we treat each other with respect and consideration. We must all behave in a manner that is conducive to an effective and positive learning environment. Distracting behavior including, but not limited to, talking, eating, reading the newspaper, listening to music on earbuds or headphones, and texting/internet is not acceptable. **TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE.** You will be asked to leave class if you violate the classroom conduct rules. Continued violations will be reported to the student conduct board. Penalties range from community service, withdrawal from the course, and suspension from the university.

**Laptops: You MAY use laptops in class for course related activities only.**

If I find you are using a laptop (or cellphone or other technology) for a reason that does not relate to the course I will ask you to stop. If you disregard my request, I will ask you to leave class and be marked absent.

**You MAY NOT record my lectures.**

**Late Assignment Policy:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date due, whether you attend class or not. Many assignments will be submitted to CourseDen and/or to other students to read. If you miss class for any reason, the assignment is still due that day. Late assignments will be accepted, but subject to a late penalty of one letter grade off per day. After two days, the assignment receives a failing grade and you receive a failing grade in this course. If

there is an emergency that causes you to miss class (death in the immediate family, car accident, injury, serious illness) you will be required to provide documentation validating your absence in order to make up the assignment. You will have 48 hours to make up the assignment or you will fail the assignment and fail the class. **No exceptions.**

**Please review the Common Language for university syllabi at the link below for further information about course policies as well as information about academic and disability services:**

[http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common\\_Language\\_for\\_Course\\_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)

**Special Note:** I reserve the right to modify the syllabus over the course of the semester as circumstances dictate. Revisions will be announced in class and on CourseDen. Students are responsible for checking CourseDen regularly for any changes to the syllabus and assignments.

**Required Text:**

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

**Grade Breakdown:**

Participation:	15%
Various Assignments:	25%
Topic Ideas	
One-Paragraph Topic	
Question and Bibliography	
Secondary Literature Comparison	
Primary Source presentation	
Citation Quiz	
Introduction and Historiography	
Peer Evaluations	
Reflective essay	
Rough Draft	20%
Final Paper:	40%

**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS**

8/15: Introduction: What do historians do? How to start a research project?

8/22: Brainstorming Topics.  
**DUE: A typed list of topic ideas.**  
**Required Reading:**  
Turabian: Chapter 1 and 2.

8/29: What are Special Collections? A presentation by Blynne Olivieri, Head of Special Collections.  
Meet in Library at the Circulation (be on time!!!)

- 9/5: Labor Day: No Class
- 9/12: Conducting Research through UWG Databases.  
Presentation by Jessica Critten, Associate Professor, Instructional Services Librarian  
Meet in Library at the Circulation Desk (be on time!!!)  
**DUE: One paragraph topic description (typed, 12pont font)**  
**Required Reading:**  
Turabian: Chapter 3 and 4
- 9/19: **DUE: Question and Bibliography**  
A typed (12-point font, double spaced) 2-3 page topic question, description, and list of at least 5 Primary Sources and 5 Secondary Sources. You should also have rough-draft thesis argument. **Be prepared to discuss to your topic.**
- 9/26: **DUE: A Primary source presentation:** Be prepared to deliver a 5-10 minute presentation to the class about a primary source you will use in your paper. Be sure to identify the author, date, where you found it, the intended audience, significance, and how you think it will enhance your paper. Bring copies of your source for everyone or save it on a jump drive to show the class. Be prepared to answer questions about your source.
- 10/3: Interpreting Sources and Making Inferences  
**DUE:** Write a 2 page paper (typed, 12 point font) in which you examine the differences in the articles below. What historical question did they seek to answer? What sources did they use to answer it? And what methodological approach did they incorporate? Finally, how do those issues account for the differences in their interpretations?  
**Required Reading:**  
Turabian: Chapter 5
- On CourseDen
1. Robert Seitz Frey, "Christian Responses to the Trial and Lynching of Leo Frank: Ministers, Theologians and Laymen"
  2. Nancy Maclean, "The Leo Frank Case Reconsidered: Gender and Sexual Politics in the Making of Reactionary Populism"
- 10/10: Creating a plan, constructing an argument, and get writing!  
**Required Reading:**  
Turabian: Chapter 6, 7, and 8
- 10/17: What can I do with a History degree?  
**DUE: Introduction and historiography (at least 5 pages in length).** Submit to CourseDen by 5:30pm and to your two peer readers.

- 10/24: **Citation quiz (Bring your copy of Turabian)**  
**DUE:** 1 page (typed, 12 point font, full page, not half page) peer evaluation for each paper you read (bring two copies). **Required Reading:** Become familiar with how to locate citation information in Turabian, Chapters 15-19 for the citation quiz.  
**Sign up for individual meetings.**
- 10/31: No class. Individual Meetings
- 11/7: How to Revise and Edit Your Work.  
**Required Reading:**  
Turabian: Chapter 9, 10, and 11
- 11/14: No class. WRITE!
- 11/18: FRIDAY: Rough Drafts Due by 5pm.**  
By 5pm you must upload your rough draft to CourseDen. You must also email a copy of your rough draft to the members of your evaluation group. Your draft should be between 12-14 pages. It should be polished with a well-stated and well-defended argument, and should include proper footnotes and bibliography.
- 11/21: Thanksgiving Break
- 11/28: **DUE:** 2 page peer review of the papers you were assigned.  
**Required Reading:**  
Turabian: Chapter 12, 13, and 14
- 12/6: DUE: Final draft.** Uploaded to CourseDen by 11:59pm.
- 12/9: DUE:** Reflective Essay. A 2-3 page paper exploring what you have learned during your time as a student at the University of West Georgia. Submitted to CourseDen by 5pm.