

HIST 4484 W: Senior Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Nadya Williams (nwilliam@westga.edu)

Office Location and Phone Number: TLC 3239; 678-839-5370

Class meeting time and location: This is an online class with one mandatory on-campus meeting, which will take place in TLC 3205 on 11/10 (Saturday), 10:00am-5:00pm. Because of the length of the on-campus meeting, the class has been officially classified as Partially Distance.

Office hours: Thursday 2:00-5:00 pm (on campus), MWF 10:00am-12:00noon (phone and CourseDen).

I am also available by appointment to speak with you either over the phone or to meet with you on campus at a time convenient to you. If you need to get in touch with me urgently, my cell phone number is 678-554-7765.

Course Description:

This course serves as the required capstone experience for History majors. Building on the research, analysis, and writing skills that you have acquired over the entirety of your undergraduate career, you will spend the semester working in stages on a major research project on a topic that YOU select, in regular consultation with your instructor and your peers. The fruits of your labor will culminate with the formal presentation of your research to your peers on 11/10, and the submission of a 20-25 page research paper on 11/30.

It is perhaps needless to note that this course is writing-intensive, and will accordingly be designated as “W” on your transcript.

Prerequisites: All students in this class must have completed HIST 2302 (The Historian’s Craft: Methodology) AND have Senior standing at the University of West Georgia. If you do not meet the pre-requisites for the course, please get in touch with me asap.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will have acquired the ability to do the following:

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 Analyze primary and secondary sources for their historical content and interpretations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

A Note on Respectful Communication:

This seminar, just like any other class that you will take in college, brings together a group of students from a variety of backgrounds and schools of thought. This means that you are guaranteed to have disagreements with each other over your interpretation of particular readings, ideas, concepts, etc. These disagreements can be a beautiful part of learning, but only if we all

treat each other with respect in all of our conversations and communications. Thus when you disagree with someone else in the class about anything related to the class or outside of it, I ask that you listen and try to understand. The same is true for the many times when you will disagree with our historical subjects or other historians who have published on the topic of your Senior Seminar paper. As a human being and as a historian, you are never obligated to agree with someone else's different approach or interpretation to an issue. As long as you are in this class, however, you are obligated to listen, and try to understand perspectives other than your own. Indeed, that would be the most professional, as well as the most loving, thing to do.

Required books:

There are no required textbooks that you need to purchase for this course. The few common readings for the course are uploaded on CourseDen.

Grading Criteria (further information will be provided upon request):

Discussion Assignments – 20%

Each student will complete eight discussion assignments on CourseDen. The discussions are meant to walk the class through such challenging tasks, integral to writing a significant research paper, as finalizing the research question, locating primary and secondary sources, historiography, and organization. The discussions, in other words, are directly relevant to tasks that students must complete to produce a successful Senior Seminar paper.

Paper Topic and Historical Question Brainstorming Questionnaire – 5%

Each student will turn in a paper topic and historical question brainstorming questionnaire during the second week of the semester. The questionnaire is meant to be a journaling exercise, walking students through their interests, and allowing them to consider possible ways to narrow down a topic.

Annotated Bibliography – 5%

Each student will submit an annotated bibliography during the week of 09/24. The bibliography should be separated into primary and secondary sources. A minimum of 5 primary and 15 secondary sources is expected.

Introduction and Historiography Section – 5%

Each student will submit an Introduction and Historiography Section of the final paper during the week of 10/15. Please note that this is not a draft. This should be a polished section of the paper, 3-5 pages in length. The historiography template assignment that you will complete the preceding week of class will help you with organizing your research.

Final Paper Presentation – 10%

Each student will make a 15 minute presentation to the rest of the class during the on-campus meeting on 11/10. Each student will also be assigned to serve as a commentator on

another student's paper, and will provide brief comments (3-5 minutes) providing feedback and constructive criticism.

Final Reflections Essay – 5%

Final reflections essay is due by midnight on the last day of class, 12/03.

Paper – 50%

The final paper, 20-25 pages in length, is due by midnight on 11/30.

N.B. There will be no curve in this course! Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale, keeping in mind that the University of West Georgia does not recognize +/- grades:

89.49 - 100 = A

79.49 - 89.48 = B

69.49 - 79.48 = C

59.49 – 69.48 = D

< 59.48 = F

Class Communication:

Per university policy, all email communications between faculty and students should be limited to the UWG email accounts and CourseDen email. I will not respond to emails sent from other accounts.

University Policies for Students:

All Students Please Note!

For important policy information, i.e., the UWG Honor Code, Email, and Credit Hour policies, as well as information on Academic Support and Online Courses, please review the information found in the **Common Language for Course Syllabi** documentation at https://www.westga.edu/academics/assets/docs/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf. Additions and updates are made as institution, state, and federal standards change, so please review it each semester.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty on ANY assignment in this course, including discussion postings, will result in an F for the course, and the referral of the student to the appropriate university committee. There will be no exceptions to this policy! Academic dishonesty can take many shapes, such as cut-and-pasting anything from the internet. Please avoid inadvertent plagiarism by ALWAYS citing any sources that you use when writing any and all

assignments for your classes. For further information, see <http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php?page=honorcode>

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

*All deadlines are at midnight. Please note that discussion assignments require you to submit the initial post by Monday, and complete responding to classmates by Thursday of the same week. All other assignments due by Thursday, unless otherwise indicated.

Week	Assignments Due
08/15	<p>Reading assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nathan Michalewicz, "François de Beaucaire de Péguillon and the Ottoman Empire: Perceptions of a Sixteenth-Century Militant Bishop," <i>Journal of the Western Society for French History</i> 40 (2012): 15-25. On CourseDen. 2. Daniel K. Williams, "Jerry Fallwell's Sunbelt Politics: The Regional Origins of the Moral Majority," <i>Journal of Policy History</i> 22 (2010): 125-147. On CourseDen. <p>Discussion 1 (due by Saturday): What makes a good historical research paper/article? What are the essential "ingredients"?</p>
08/20	<p>Paper Topic and Historical Question Brainstorming Questionnaire due Thursday by midnight. If using a paper from another class as foundation for Senior Seminar, you must email the previous paper to me by Thursday as well!</p>
08/27	<p>Research assignment: use UWG Library resources to find primary sources on your topic, and check out relevant materials from the Library. Depending on your topic, aim to find a minimum of 5 primary sources.</p> <p>Discussion 2 (first post due Monday; responses due Thursday): Finding Primary Sources, Reporting Successes and Challenges</p>
09/03	<p>Research assignment: Read through at least 2 of your primary sources</p> <p>Discussion 3 (first post due Tuesday; responses due Thursday): Primary Source Reports</p>
09/10	<p>Research assignment: inventory UWG Library holdings on your topic, and check out relevant books; submit GIL requests for relevant books at other libraries. Depending on your topic, you should have a minimum of 15 secondary sources in your bibliography, including both academic books and articles. This week, your focus is books, and next week you will be searching for articles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue reading any primary sources you have not read yet! Start reading secondary sources. <p>Discussion 4 (first post due Monday; responses due Thursday): Finding Secondary Source Research Materials</p>
09/17	<p>Research assignment: search EBSCO Host and/or JSTOR for research articles on</p>

	<p>your topic. Remember, historians use both books AND articles for research, so your bibliography must include both!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep reading secondary sources <p>Discussion 5: Finding Academic Articles</p>
09/24	<p>Research assignment: keep reading sources!</p> <p>Annotated Bibliography due Thursday by midnight</p>
10/01	<p>Research assignment: keep reading sources!</p> <p>Discussion 6: Finalizing Your Research Question, and Formulating your Thesis Statement</p>
10/08	<p>Research assignment: start pulling materials together and seeing your research as telling a story!</p> <p>Discussion 7: Figuring out the Historiography of Your Topic (you may find it helpful to begin by filling out the Historiography Template)</p>
10/15	Introduction and Historiography Section due Thursday by midnight
10/22	<p>Research assignment: Write like your degree depends on it ('cause it does!)</p> <p>Discussion 8: Organizing your paper</p>
10/29	<p>Research assignment: Keep writing!</p> <p>Individual meetings/phone conferences to discuss progress</p>
11/05	<p>Research assignment: Keep writing!</p> <p>On-campus meeting with individual paper presentations on 11/10, 10am-5pm. Please submit your paper into the Dropbox AND email it to your assigned commentator no later than Thursday by midnight!</p>
11/12	<p>Research assignment: Keep writing and revising!</p> <p>Individual meetings/phone conferences as needed</p>
11/19	THANKSGIVING BREAK
11/26	Final paper due on 11/30
12/03	Final Reflections Essay due by midnight on Monday