

History 4484W: Senior Seminar
Fall 2019 100% Online Course

Instructor: Dr. Colleen A. Vasconcellos Office: TLC 3208 Phone: 678-839-6032 (email preferred) Email: cvasconc@westga.edu	<u>Office Hours</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ONLINE: M-W 10A-2P• TH: 2P-5P in TLC 3208• By appointment
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Course Objectives

This capstone course completes the History major here at UWG and gives you the opportunity to put all that you have learned in our program to the test. This semester, you will conduct original research, place that research within the historiographical discourse on your topic, and present your findings in a 20 to 25-page paper on a topic that you yourself have chosen and that is based on primary and secondary sources. This is a writing intensive course, so be prepared to work. However, the assignments in this course are designed to help you tackle this project in stages as you develop your topic, immerse yourself in the relevant primary and secondary sources relative to that topic, and formulate your own research and analytical methodologies as they relate to the analysis that you submit in November.

Please note that this class is 100% online, so all assignments, class discussions, and presentations will take place in our online classroom.

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 me, the instructor, at your earliest convenience at some point in early August.

Learning Outcomes

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- Analyze primary and secondary sources for their historical content and interpretation.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

Special Note

Students, please carefully review the following information at this link:

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

This link contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

Course Readings: There is no specific textbook for this course. Everything you need is provided.

Accessibility

Please submit any SAR documentation to me within the first week of class, or once received if the semester is already in progress. I will make every effort to accommodate your needs as outlined in your paperwork. Please do not hesitate to ask if you need further assistance.

Online Help

- Have questions about our classroom navigation? Email me either in courseden or at cvasconc@westga.edu
- Have questions about getting into CourseDen? Contact the helpdesk:

24/7 HelpDesk <https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu>

Email: online@westga.edu

UWG | Online HelpDesk (M-F: 8-5pm): 678-839-6248

ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION

Please note that students who do not actively participate in the class within the first two weeks will be withdrawn by the course at the deadline set by the university. In this class, we will have three mandatory attendance checkpoints during the first week of class:

- (1) introduction assignment (2) the student contract quiz (3) the plagiarism quiz

Students who do not fulfill these requirements, which can be found in the in the Start Here: Syllabus and Start Items Module, will be dropped for non-participation. If you are unable to complete these assignments in the allotted time-frame and have documentation to that effect, you should contact me as soon as possible to avoid being dropped after the deadline. Please note UWG's policy on attendance verification as outlined in Section 204 of the UWG Faculty Handbook: "In fully online or hybrid courses each instructor has the authority to specify in the syllabus what qualifies as attendance at the first class meeting and during the Drop/Add Period to drop students who fail to meet that requirement. Instructors may require students to attend a face-to-face meeting, to login in to the online course-delivery system by a specific date, or to take other specified steps at the beginning of the session." If you are dropped and do not have sufficient documentation as to why you were unable to complete the attendance assignments as outlined here, that decision is final and you will not be reinstated in the course.

COMPUTER ACCESS

It is highly recommended that you have regular (daily) computer access, preferably a home computer with broadband Internet access. This course can be completed using public computers at UWG or other public access areas. All course requirements remain the same whether your computer access is public or private (home).

TECHNICAL SKILL REQUIREMENTS

You should be comfortable with the following:

- using a computer
- using CourseDen and MS Word
- using email for communication and sending an email attachment if necessary
- You should have access to a computer with camera/video/microphone capability

COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Class Participation 20%	Introduction and Historiography 5%
Primary Source Analysis 5%	Rough Draft 15%
Journal Article Review 5%	Final Paper 30%
Annotated Bibliography 5%	Final Paper Presentation 5%
Organizational Assignments 5%	Final Reflection Essay 5%

Online Discussions 20%

We will participate in eight online discussions during the first ten weeks of class, with each discussion receiving a separate grade that will be applied towards your class participation grade. Grades received for your **mandatory introduction, student contract quiz, and plagiarism quiz** will also be counted towards your class participation grade. Each online discussion will be graded on a 25-point scale, with the grading rubric posted in CourseDen. Late posts will not be counted towards your unit discussion grades. See the Course Overview Module for more information on Class Participation Guidelines and Grading.

Primary Source Analysis 5%

Find one primary source that relates to your topic from any database found online on the Ingram Library Website. You can find a link for that website in the Resources Module. Read the source and then analyze it in a 500 to 750-word analysis that identifies the intended audience, significance, and how this source will enhance your paper. Be prepared to discuss this source in an online discussion. See the syllabus for more information on when that discussion will occur, and when your analysis is due. See the Course Assignments Module for further paper guidelines. Please cite your source according to Turabian or the Chicago Manual of Style.

Journal Article Review 5%

Find a journal article that relates to your topic that is published in a reputable journal like *The American Historical Review*, *The Journal of Social History*, *The William and Mary Quarterly*, *Slavery and Abolition*, etc. Read the article and then analyze it in a 500 to 750-word analysis. It must be at least 500 words and no more than 750. Your analysis should discuss the author's argument and evidentiary support, his or her research methodology, the article's historiographical contribution and significance, and its strengths and weaknesses. This will be excellent preparation for your annotated bibliography and your paper's own historiography. Articles listed on the syllabus are off limits. See the Course Assignments Module for further paper guidelines. Please cite your source according to Turabian or the Chicago Manual of Style.

Annotated Bibliography 5%

This assignment is designed to get you thinking about how your research relates to the current historiographical discourse on your topic. You will compile an annotated bibliography of secondary sources that would be used for a projected substantial research project. An annotated bibliography is a bibliography that gives a short summary of each source listed alphabetically. This will be great preparation for the historiographical essay that you will write later in the course. See the Course Assignments Module for further guidelines

Organizational Assignments 5%

There are a select number of assignments relative to the organization of your paper such as the submission of your paper topic, submission of a one paragraph description of your topic, a list of primary and secondary sources on your topic, etc, that you will submit at various checkpoints along the semester. These assignments will be counted as organizational assignments totaling 5% of your final grade. See the syllabus for a list of assignment deadlines and the Course Assignments Module for further assignment guidelines.

Introduction and Historiography 5%

In October, each of you will submit your introduction and historiography. It should be a polished draft of your introduction and historiography, at least 3-5 pages in length, with a clearly defined thesis statement, and cited according to Turabian or the Chicago Manual of Style. See the Course Assignments Module for further guidelines.

Rough Draft 15%

In November, each of you will submit a rough draft of your paper in the Assignment Dropbox specific to that assignment, as well as email a copy of your paper to your evaluation group for peer review. Your draft should be a polished draft between 12-14 pages, with a clearly defined and supported argument and footnotes cited according to Turabian or the Chicago Manual of Style. See the Course Assignments Module for further guidelines. Rough Drafts are due no later than 11:59P on Sunday, November 10.

- ATTN: Peer Reviewers. Each student will complete a blind peer review of your classmates' rough drafts, with no author/reviewer identities shared. Your peer reviews offer constructive feedback and suggestions to your classmates. These reviews count as an Organizational assignment. I will organize distribution of rough drafts to all peer reviewers and peer reviews to draft authors via CourseDen email. See the Course Assignments Module for further guidelines.

Final Paper 30%

Your final 20 to 25-page paper is due no later than 11:59P on Sunday, December 1. You should consider the blind peer review feedback, as well as my own, before submitting your polished final paper drafts. Footnotes should be cited according to Turabian or the Chicago Manual of Style. See the Course Assignments Module for further guidelines.

Final Paper Presentation 5%

Each student is required to make a 15-minute presentation on their paper topic, research methodologies, arguments, and conclusions. We will attempt to do these presentations in a Google Hangout the week following Thanksgiving Break. See CourseDen for more information.

Final Reflection Essay 5%

For your last assignment, you will submit a 2 to 3-page reflective essay that discusses what you have learned during your time as a History major at the University of West Georgia. See the Course Assignments Module for further guidelines.

A Note about Submitting Assignments to CourseDen

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT: All submitted assignments must be submitted in MS Word, double spaced, with standard 1" margins, size 12 font in Times New Roman or the like, black text and NO double-spacing between paragraphs. Citations are cited according to the Chicago Manual of Style or points will be deducted. Am I serious? You betcha.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS LATE OR OUTSIDE COURSEDEN: I do not accept assignments via email, and any assignment not submitted to the dropbox in CourseDen will receive a 0. Late assignments submitted after the scheduled deadline will not be accepted unless you have a properly documented excuse. **Late assignments submitted without proper documentation will receive a 0.**

THE RETURN OF GRADED WORK: Assignment and discussions will be graded in one week's time unless otherwise stipulated.

EXTRA CREDIT: There is no extra credit offered in this class.

IN THE EVENT OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

It is **your responsibility** to see that your assignments have posted to CourseDen properly. Please check to make sure that your assignment was uploaded correctly and appears in the appropriate Dropbox. If it does not appear, I cannot grade it, and I will not be asking you where it is. Instead, I will assume that you did not do the assignment on time and will grade your assignment accordingly. In other words, your assignment will be considered late once the submission deadline has passed and late work is not accepted in this class.

In the event that you are having computer/wifi difficulties, please find an alternative source. **Please do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments.** Keep in mind that you are submitting items over the Internet, and sometimes the Internet Gods get angry and withhold access. And sometimes they just like to mess with you when you are approaching a deadline. There are many things that can go wrong in the path between your computer and CourseDen. Technical problems related to computer connections or equipment cannot be used

as an excuse for failure to complete assignments or to participate online. Save often and back up your work.

It is your responsibility to locate the computer hardware, software and Internet connections necessary to stay connected and current with your course work online. Please be aware of alternate Internet connections and computers available through college computer labs, college Learning Resource Centers (such as libraries), the public library, and any friends, relatives, or neighbors and access them if your personal computer equipment is not working.

A NOTE ABOUT ACADEMIC HONESTY

I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty in this class and my policy is one of zero tolerance. All assignments and discussion posts submitted in class must be written in your own words. This includes paraphrasing, which may not be taking a passage word for word, but certainly does not give credit to ideas and/or information. **All assignments will be monitored by Turnitin**, and plagiarizers will automatically fail the course. I will also recommend that UWG administration take action. Plagiarism is a serious offense and it can lead to your expulsion and/or suspension from the University. Every UWG student agrees upon their admission to the university to uphold the UWG Honor Code, which states: “[a]s a West Georgia student, I will represent myself truthfully and complete all academic assignments honestly. I understand that if I violate this code, I will accept the penalties imposed, should I be found guilty of violations through processes due me as a university community member.” UWG students further agree that they will “refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrications, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.” **In short, don’t do it.** You can find a link to the UWG Honor Code in the Course Overview Module, as well as links to pages on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it in the Content Module. Also, the mandatory plagiarism quiz will help you with this as well. Furthermore, assignment and discussion guidelines will give instructions on citation formats, but feel free to contact me with questions on how or what to cite. A good rule of thumb is “when in doubt, cite.”

Tentative Course Outline

Please note that this schedule could change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Mandatory Participation Deadline. Please note that your Introduction, Student Contract Quiz, and Plagiarism Quiz are due by 11:59P EST, Wednesday, August 21.
Failure to participate by the deadline will result in your removal from this course.

Week 1—August 14-18: Course Introductions

Familiarize yourself with the course and read the syllabus. The real work begins in Week 2.

Week 2—August 19-25: What Makes a Good Topic?

Readings: Excerpt of Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers* (CourseDen)

- Participation Deadline: Intro and Quizzes by 11:59P EST, Wednesday, August 21
- Assignment Deadline: Submit your Historical Interests and Topic Selection Questionnaire to the Assignment Dropbox no later than 11:59P on Sunday, August 25

Week 3—August 26-September 1: Finding Primary Sources

Readings: Excerpt of Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers* on finding sources. (CourseDen)

- Assignment Deadline: Submit your topic with a brief description to the Assignment Dropbox no later than 11:59P on Sunday, September 1

Week 4—September 2-8: Finding Secondary Sources

Readings: Keep reading the excerpt of Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers* on finding sources. (CourseDen)

- Assignment Deadline: Submit a list of 5 Primary Sources and 5 Secondary Sources relative to your topic to the Assignment Dropbox no later than 11:59P on Sunday, September 8

Week 5—September 9-15: Constructing a Strong Argument and Supporting It

Readings: "Was the Salem Witch Hysteria Caused by a Fear of Women?" (CourseDen); Nathan Michalewicz, "François de Beaucaire de Péguillon and the Ottoman Empire: Perceptions of a Sixteenth-Century Militant Bishop," *Journal of the Western Society for French History* 40 (2012): 1-25 (CourseDen); and for reference: an Excerpt of Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers* (CourseDen).

- Assignment Deadline: Submit your 500 to 750-word analysis of a primary source relative to your topic to the Assignment Dropbox no later than 11:59P on Sunday, September 15

Week 6—September 16-22: Finalizing Your Research Question and Thesis Statement

Readings: Constructing a Thesis Statement (CourseDen)

Week 7—September 23-29: Placing Your Work within the Historiography

Readings: Melvyn P. Leffler, "The Cold War: What Do 'We Now Know'?" *The American Historical Review* 104:2 (1999): 501-24. (JSTOR)

- Assignment Deadline: Submit your 500 to 750-word analysis of a journal article relative to your topic to the Assignment Dropbox no later than 11:59P on Sunday, September 29

Week 8—September 30-October 6: RESEARCH!

This week is Fall Break, so finish up your annotated bibliographies and take the rest of the week for some research time.

- Assignment Deadline: Submit your Annotated Bibliography to the Assignment Dropbox no later than 11:59P on Sunday, October 6.

Week 9—October 7-13: What Can I Do with a History Degree?

Readings: [“What Can You Do with That History Degree?” AHA](#); and [Paul B. Sturtevant, “History Is Not a Useless Major: Fighting Myths with Data,” *Perspectives on History* \(April 2017\).](#)

- Assignment Deadline: Submit your Historiographical Map to the Assignment Dropbox no later than 11:59P on Sunday, October 13

Week 10—October 14-20: Forming a Plan

For Reference: Excerpt of Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers* (CourseDen)

- Assignment Deadline: Submit a polished draft of your Introduction and Historiography Section to the Assignment Dropbox due no later than 11:59P on Sunday, October 20.

Week 11—October 21-27: WRITE!

Week 12—October 28-November 3: KEEP WRITING!

Week 13—November 4-10: WRITE LIKE THE WIND!

- Assignment Deadline: Submit your polished rough draft of your Senior Seminar paper to the Assignment Dropbox no later than 11:59P on Sunday, November 10. Don’t forget to email a copy to your peer reviewers too!

Week 14—November 11-17: Peer Review

Take this week to not only work on your own paper, but also to read over your classmates’ drafts and begin thinking of your peer reviews.

Week 15—November 18-24: Peer Review

For Reference: Excerpt of Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers* (CourseDen)

- Assignment Deadline: Submit your peer reviews to the Assignment Dropbox no later than 11:59P on Sunday, November 24. Remember that these are blind reviews, so do not include your name. I will distribute them to your classmates on Monday, November 25.

Week 16—November 25-December 1: Thanksgiving Break

Breaks are any academic’s time to write, so use this week to finish up your final drafts, but don’t forget to rest too. If you need me, shoot me an email at cvasconc@westga.edu because, like any other academic, I am working too.

- Assignment Deadline: Your final draft is due no later than 11:59P on Sunday, December 1.

Week 17—December 2-6: Final Presentations

For Reference: Excerpt of Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers* (CourseDen)

- Assignment Deadline: Submit your reflective essay to the Assignment Dropbox no later than 11:59P on Friday, December 6.