HIS 5190-004: Thesis – 3 hours

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Department: History

Course Description:
A 1-3 hour course dedicated to research and writing connected to the completion of the M.A. Thesis.

Course Requirements:
This course is required for the student to work on research and writing of a M.A. thesis proposal and a thesis. The student and professor will draw up a set of expectations for the semester. The student is expected to make progress on the thesis proposal and thesis as outlined.

Course Calendar:
Tentative timeline:
- Defend the thesis proposal by Oct. 31.
- Complete first drafts of two chapters by the end of the semester.

Graduate Student Learning Outcomes:
The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning an M.A. degree in History:
1. The student will be able to explain the key issues and developments in at least two historical periods (one per course).
2. The student will be able to identify the main historical works and interpretive debates associated with an event or period.
3. The student will be able to locate, identify, and critically analyze primary sources.
4. The student will be able to research and analyze effectively an issue or topic in writing.
5. The student will be able to present written work in an appropriate academic style, including the proper citation of sources using Chicago Manual of Style (15th or most recent edition).

This course will incorporate to varying degrees on each of these PLOS, with a particular emphasis on PLOs 3, 4, and 5.

Explanation of credit hours awarded for course:
Students completing a thesis must register each semester university resources are being utilized until the thesis is completed and successfully defended. During the research phase, the student works independently with a list of sources developed in consultation with the thesis director (who is listed as the course instructor of record). The student meets regularly with the director, and as needed with other members of the thesis committee, to discuss the progress of the project during the research phase. The student also works independently during the writing phase of the project, according to the plan of the approved thesis proposal, under the direction of the thesis director. Once again, as during the research phase, the student meets regularly with the director,
and as needed with other members of the thesis committee, and submits drafts of the thesis as per the schedule outlined in the thesis proposal until the thesis is successfully defended and approved by the committee, a process that must occur according to university deadlines. Students are expected to produce 100-140 pages of formal writing. The course is for variable credit. Generally, the student registers for 6 hours of credit during the first semester of the thesis work and for 1 hour of credit during subsequent semesters until the thesis is successfully defended.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.


*In addition, you may include your own guidelines for academic integrity as appropriate.*

**Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, 5.5)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).