Syllabus – HIS 470-001
Senior Seminar
Spring 2020

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Office: LAN 313
Office Hours: MW 1-2:30, TR 2:00-4:30 pm
Department: History
Class meeting time and place: M 6:00-8:30 pm, Ferguson 474

A. Course Description
This course will guide students through the production of a significant research paper advancing a thesis based on primary source analysis and engaging with relevant historiography. In general, the class will engage with research topics related to medieval Europe, although individual exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis with the consent and active participation of an alternative research advisor among the history faculty.

B. Program Learning Outcomes
Upon completing the BA, SFA history majors can:
• Interpret the past in context
• Understand the nature of the historical record
• Engage in historical inquiry, research, and analysis
• Craft historical narrative and argument
• Practice historical thinking as central to engaged citizenship

C. Texts and Materials

D. Course Requirements
1. In-Class Participation (10%)
   • While this is not merely an attendance grade, consistent attendance is nevertheless required. Students with more than two unexcused absences will receive a 0 in this category.
2. Preparatory Deadlines (20%)
• This grade item will be based on the quality and thoroughness of work handed in across all preparatory deadlines, excepting the Secondary Literature Review, which has its own grade item.
• For missed deadlines, 25% of the grade category (or 5% of the total grade) will be deducted for each instance.

3. Secondary Literature Review (10%)
• You will write a 4-5 page historiographical review of at least 6 secondary analyses highly relevant to your chosen topic.

4. Research Presentation (10%)
• At the end of the course, you will prepare a formal presentation of your research to the class.

5. Final Paper (50%)
• You will write a research paper of 16-18 pages (or more, if you so desire) in length which consistently argues a thesis based on your own primary-source analysis and engaging with other relevant historiography. This will be the central goal of the course. Your paper must make appropriate use of at least 10 secondary sources, at least 5 of which must be monographs.
• Regardless of performance in other grade categories, a failing paper grade will result in a course grade of F.

E. Grading Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9% &amp; below</td>
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F. Course Policies

a. Attendance: Regular attendance is expected, and students who miss more than two class periods will receive a 0 in the participation grade category. In case of a documented emergency or if I am notified of an academically legitimate reason for the absence well before the class session, I may excuse an absence at my own discretion.

b. Late Work: Unless otherwise stated, all work is due as of the beginning of the class period. Unless otherwise stated, 20% will be deducted from late submissions for each 24-hour period after the deadline. If you miss class, even for an excused absence, any deadlines for that day still apply and your work will be considered late unless it is submitted in advance. In the event of an unexpected emergency, digitally submit anything due for that day as soon as possible.

c. Laptops and Personal Electronic Devices: It is expected that laptops will be used only for immediately relevant course purposes, and that cell phones, etc., will be kept on silent and put away during class.
d. **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. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Note that, as this is a senior seminar course geared toward the production of a research paper, students will be held to professional standards of originality. Even unintentional cases of plagiarism (of other’s ideas, not just words) will result in harsh grade penalties at a minimum.**

e. **Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)**: 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.

f. **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/)

*I reserve the right to emend this syllabus to enhance student learning

G. **Course Calendar**
Week 1 – No Class – Term starts Wednesday
- For next meeting:
  - Read Rosenwein p. 129-150, 172-200
  - Identify 3 topics of interest and write 2 thoughtful questions per topic (6 in total) from these readings.
    - Note: Because this is a productive exercise, and because you may find yourself in need to a fallback option, you must complete these assignments even if you intend to submit an Alternative Topic form.

Week 2 (1/20): No Class – MLK Day
- For next meeting:
  - Identify 3 topics of interest and write 2 thoughtful questions per topic from these readings.

Week 3 (1/27): Introduction; Conceiving of a Viable Project
- Due before class:
  - Submit your 6 topics and 12 questions from the Rosenwein readings. Select in bold the topic and question that interests you most.
    - Note: You must submit these even if you get another faculty member to sign up as an advisor for an alternative topic. It’s good practice and may provide you with a useful backup option.
  - Optional: Submit signed Alternative Topic Advisor Form if you are pursuing a non-medieval topic
- In class: Open-Book/Note Rosenwein quiz; Primary source survey
- For next meeting
  - Read A Manual for Writers, Ch. 1-3.
  - Select a specific topic and at least 2 thematic interest.

Week 4 (2/3): The Research Process; Finding Primary & Secondary Sources
- Due before class:
  - Submit your specific topic selection and your thematic interest(s).
- In class: Locate sources
- For next meeting:
  - Read A Manual for Writers, Ch. 4-5.
  - Assemble primary-sources.
    - Check out from the library or request by ILL anything that is not available online.
    - Begin reading anything available now.
  - Check out three the 3 (or more) most relevant books from Steen Library.
  - Request at least 2 secondary books by ILL.

Week 5 (2/10): Crafting a Research Question; Reading for Research
• Due before class:
  o Submit a list of the primary sources you have acquired (or requested).
  o Submit a (Chicago-style) bibliography of the 3+ books you checked out and
    the 2+ books you requested by ILL.
• In class: Form research groups; brainstorm research questions
• For next meeting:
  o Write a 2-page synopsis of preliminary findings and thoughts.
  o Craft three possible research questions (all focused on the same theme &
    topic).
  o Check out or request at least 2 more relevant books.

Week 6 (2/17): Research Question Workshop
• Due before class:
  o Submit your 2-page summary of preliminary findings.
  o Submit 3 possible research questions.
  o Submit an updated bibliography with at least 2 new secondary sources.
• For next meeting:
  o Hone your research question and write a brief (1/2 page or so) rationale.
  o Download at least 2 relevant articles.

Week 7 (2/24): Applied Methodologies; Appropriate Uses of Theory
• Due before class:
  o Submit your honed research question & rationale.
  o Submit an updated bibliography with at least 2 new articles.
• For next meeting:
  o Prepare a 2-3 page synopsis of findings primary sources.
  o Acquire at least 2 more secondary sources.

Week 8 (3/2): Writing Historiography / Literature Reviews
• Due before class:
  o Submit your 2-3p synopsis of findings from primary-sources.
  o Submit an updated bibliography with at least 2 new secondary sources.
• For next meeting:
  o Read Elements of Style (all) & A Manual for Writers, Ch. 9 & 11.
  o Write a 4-5 page literature review of at least 6 secondary sources directly
    relevant to your research question.

Spring Break – No Class

Week 9 (3/16): Writing Mechanics & Style; Editing
• Due before class:
  o Submit your 4-5p literature review.
• In-class: Peer editing workshop
• For next meeting:
  o Prepare a tentative thesis with a 1-page justification.

Week 10 (3/23): Quotation, Citation, Footnotes
• Due before class:
  o Submit your tentative thesis and 1p justification.
• In-class: Citation practice & thesis workshop
• For next meeting:
  o Craft a honed thesis and identify at least 3 major sub-arguments.
  o Prepare an updated bibliography.

Week 11 (3/30): Effective Argumentation; Structure, Formatting, & Outlines
• Due before class:
  o Submit your honed thesis with at least 3 major sub-arguments.
  o Submit your updated bibliography.
• In-class: Argument & outline workshop
• For next meeting:
  o Prepare a detailed outline of at least 2 full pages (including a full thesis statement).

Week 12 (4/6, etc.): Research Group Meetings with Professor
• Due before meeting:
  o Submit your detailed outline of 2+ pages.
• For next meeting:
  o Draft your research essay.
  o Prepare a 10-minute presentation on your research.

Week 13 (4/13): NO CLASS - Independent Work
• Draft your research essay.
• Prepare a 10-minute presentation on your research.

Week 14 (4/20): Research Presentations, Day 1
• Due before meeting:
  o Submit 1 your complete paper draft online and bring 2 printed copies for peer review.
• For next meeting:
  o Review the drafts of 2 peers.

Week 15 (4/27): Research Presentation, Day 2:
• Due before meeting:
  o Submit 2 peer-reviews.
• For next meeting:
  o Polish your final draft.
Finals Week:
  o  Submit your final draft by Tues 5/5 at 11:59 pm.