Course Description:
A 1 to 6-hour course dedicated to research and writing connected to the completion of the M. A. thesis.

Program 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 all of these PLOS, with a particular emphasis on PLOs 3, 4, and 5. The Student Learning Outcome is to complete and successfully defend the M. A. thesis.

Texts and Materials:
These will be assigned as needed for the student’s specific research. The student should have access to a reliable computer and sufficient backup storage to ensure no loss of work.

Course Requirements:
The student is expected to show advancement in both research and writing. This may occur linearly or simultaneously depending upon the thesis. Revisions should be made promptly and all edits and corrections done as directed. All formatting should follow graduate school requirements and all referencing should follow the newest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style.

Course Calendar:
The student and instructor will develop a series of submission and revision deadlines based upon the student’s current progress as well as the graduate school’s deadlines.

Grading Policy:
The grade will be WH until the successful defense and submission of a final thesis that meets all departmental and graduate school expectations.

Attendance Policy:
Regular and punctual attendance is expected (see Class-Attendance, 6.7-January 30, 2018 for more information).
THESIS

SFA’s COVID-19 Mask Policy (for face-to-face classes only):
Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.


Explanation of credit hours awarded for course:
Students completing a thesis must register each semester university resources are 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.

Student Academic Dishonesty (4.1-January 28, 2020):
Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism, as well as the appeal process.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty - Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
• using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
• falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment;
• helping or attempting to help other student(s) in an act of cheating or plagiarism.
Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
• submitting an assignment as one’s own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
• submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source;
• incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf. Appeals are acceptable when done according to policy.
Withheld Grades (Course Grades, 5.5-April 18, 2020):
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, 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 by the deadline set by the instructor of record, not to exceed one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Military Service Activation (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (6.1-April 30, 2019):
It is the policy of Stephen F. Austin State University to comply with the fundamental principles of nondiscrimination and accommodation in academic programs set forth in the implementing regulations for Section 504 for the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of Act of 2008 (ADAAA). 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/. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-6.1.pdf.

Instructor’s Note: It is the policy of the Office of Disability Services that students should communicate directly with the instructor about their needs, simply completing the paperwork is not acceptable.

Discrimination Complaints/Sexual Harassment (2.11-July 21, 2020):
It is the policy of Stephen F. Austin State University, in accordance with federal and state law, to prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, citizenship, and veteran status. Unlawful discrimination based on sex includes discrimination defined as sexual harassment. Stephen F. Austin State University is committed to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) law. An employee who violates this Policy is subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. A student that violates this Policy is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.