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HIS 110 Historical Methods (1)

An exploration of historical thinking, writing, and research intended to develop skills needed for success in upper-level courses. The evolution of historical writing from earliest times to the present is also examined.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Apply disciplinary approaches and evidentiary standards for the purpose of investigating, research, assessing, and generating knowledge
2. Analyze questions, theses, and/or problems, and collect and evaluate related information for the purpose of producing evidence-based responses.
3. Apply and practice the Chicago Manual of Style for citation and documentation.
4. Understand the distinction between primary and secondary sources, as well as how to find and evaluate them.
5. Practice developing a research project and its steps, which includes: a proposal, thesis, annotated bibliography, argument development, and presentation to peers.

Course Topics

1. What is the discipline of history?
2. Development of the discipline of History
3. Historiography
4. Using Secondary Sources
5. Using Primary Sources
6. Ensuring a Successful Research Outcome
7. How Historians write
8. Colloquium and Discussion of Academic Research, Findings



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HIS 261 United States History to 1877 (3)

A survey of American history from prehistory through the Civil War.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Identify key moments, themes, and individuals in the history of the United States
2. Participate and lead discussions about historical actors and events
3. Understand how factors of race, class, gender, and ethnicity shaped the founding, expansion, and division of our nation
4. Analyze major historical questions historians currently debate
5. Apply primary sources as evidence to support arguments about our country's past
6. Generate persuasive historical interpretation of events in writing assignments

Course Topics

1. Indigenous Peoples
2. European Colonization
3. American Revolution
4. Market Revolution
5. Slavery
6. Immigration
7. Gender and Sex
8. Jacksonian Politics and the Whig Party
9. Westward Expansion
10. The Civil War
11. Reconstruction



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HIS 262 US Since 1877 (3)

A survey of American history from the Civil War to the present. IAI-H2905

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Synthesize and explain the significance of broad historical trends in US history since 1877.
2. Evaluate and interpret historical sources critically, especially in terms of an author's thesis and likely biases.
3. Distinguish and evaluate primary versus secondary sources and their importance to understanding US history.
4. Critically discuss historical topics and their significance in order to develop and support their own historical arguments.
5. Recognize and challenge assumptions we often make about the past and its impacts on the present.

Course Topics

1. Ending the Civil War, Reconstruction
2. The End of Reconstruction, Gilded Age
3. Industry and Immigration in America
4. Protestors, Politicians, and Imperialists
5. Progressives
6. World War I
7. The Twenties
8. Great Depression; Dust Bowl, New Deal
9. World War II, Home Front
10. Early Years of the Cold War
11. Happy Days, 1950s Culture
12. Limits of Power
13. Struggle for a Just Society
14. Long Road Home
15. A New Century Begins



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HIS 265 Introduction to Public History (3)

This course introduces students to the diverse field of public history, including archives management, museums, and oral history. The course includes theoretical discussion as well as practical experiences.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Apply disciplinary approaches and evidentiary standards for the purpose of investigating, research, assessing, and generating knowledge.
2. Analyze questions, theses, and/or problems, and collect and evaluate related information for the purpose of producing evidence-based responses.
3. Develop written and oral communication skills through the process of formulating ideas, discussing their merits, and presenting them to a specific audience (ie. Instructor, peers, colleagues, etc.)

Course Topics

1. Thinking Historically
2. What Can Be Done Nearby?
3. Traces and Storytelling
4. Interpreting the Past Case Study
5. Collecting History
6. Research, Writing, and Leaving a Record
7. Local Historical Museums and Sites
8. Interpreting and Exhibiting History
9. Facing History and Ourselves, Digital Projects
10. Engaging Audiences
11. Landscapes and Buildings
12. Putting Public History to Work in Your World



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HIS 271/371 US Women's History (3)

The course examines the way in which women have shaped the American past and the ways in which large historical forces have influenced women's lives. Those students taking the course as HIS 371 will be required to write a major research paper, in addition to other required writings. Students may elect to take this course at one level, but not both.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Synthesize and explain the significance of broad historical trends.
2. Evaluate and interpret historical sources critically, especially in terms of an author's thesis and likely biases.
3. Critically discuss historical topics and their significance in order to develop and support their own historical arguments.
4. Recognize and challenge assumptions we often make about women, their experiences, and the past.
5. Plan and construct their own research project design in order to develop and argue for a unique historical interpretation.

Course Topics

1. What is Women's History? What is Gender History?;
2. The First Americans;
3. Coming to America, 1607-1770;
4. The Revolutionary Era
5. The Age of Association
6. Coming Together, Falling Apart, 1845-1865
7. The Gilded Age, 1865-1900
8. The Progressive Era, 1890-1920
9. The Jazz Age
10. Surviving the Great Depression
11. The 1940s, World War II
12. The 1950s, Happy Daze
13. The Personal is Political: The Sixties
14. Women versus Women: The 1970s and 1980s;
15. Third Wave and Beyond
16. Course Research Colloquium



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HIS 275/375 US Environmental History (3)

A survey of environmental history in the United States, this course provides an overview of the changing relationship between human societies and the natural world. Students taking this course as HIS 375 will be required to complete a major research project in addition to other required writings. Students may elect to take this course at one level, but not both.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Define and synthesize broad historical trends over time, using both primary and secondary sources for supporting evidence.
2. Evaluate and interpret historical sources critically, including both primary and secondary sources, and identify an author's thesis, intended audience, and likely biases.
3. Critically discuss historical topics and their significance in order to develop and argue in support historical interpretations using source materials.
4. Recognize and challenge assumptions we often make about people, the environment, and the past; and evaluate the impact those assumptions have on our present and future interpretations of history.

Course Topics

1. What is Environmental History?
2. Native American Ecology and European Contact
3. The New England Forest in the Seventeenth Century
4. Tobacco and Rice in the Colonial South
5. Farms and Cities in the Early Republic
6. Nature and the Market in the Nineteenth Century
7. The Cotton South Before and After the Civil War
8. Extracting the Far West in the Nineteenth Century
9. Great Plains Grasslands Exploited
10. Resource Conservation in the Twentieth Century
11. Wilderness Preservation in the Twentieth Century
12. Urbanizing the Environment in the Twentieth Century
13. The Emergence of Ecology in the Twentieth Century
14. Water and Energy in the Twentieth Century
15. Globalization: the United States in the Wider World



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HIS 276/376 Minorities in the American Experience (3)

A survey of minorities in American history, this course will compare and contrast the histories of the various ethnic groups that make up the American population. Students taking this course as HIS 376 will be required to write a major research paper in addition to other required writings. Students may elect to take this course at one level, but not both.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Critically examine, interpret, and explain how personal, political, cultural, economic, and social experiences and/or structures shaped ethnic groups and immigrants in America.
2. Gather and analyze data using historical methodologies to evaluate causal arguments and analyze assertions, assumptions, and explanatory evidence related to ethnic groups and immigrants in America.
3. Evaluate nativist reaction to new migrants and how groups compete for higher places on the existing racial hierarchy.
4. Recognize and analyze differences between individuals and groups of people; identify and explain the potential benefits and/or conflicts arising from human differences within the current national and/or international landscape.
5. Investigate the diversity of human experience within Western culture, considering, for example, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, and social class, and appreciate the contributions of different social groups.
6. Develop a thesis and write an investigative research paper engaging in the historiographical conversation surrounding an ethnic minority.

Course Topics

1. Indigenous Peoples and Settle Colonialism
2. West Africans and Slavery in the Americas
3. First Wave: Irish, Germans, and Chinese
4. Jim Crow America
5. Second Wave: Italians, Slavs, Jews, and Mexicans
6. Civil Rights and Black Power
7. Third Wave: Arabs, Middle Easterners, Asians, Africans, and Latinx



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HIS 277/377 African-American History (3)

An introduction to the study of African American History, including the history and culture of Western Africa, the Atlantic slave trade, slavery and its effects, as well as the roles, lifestyles, problems, and accomplishments of African Americans from the Colonial period until the present. The course will focus on the African American community analyzing major political, social, economic, religious, cultural, and intellectual trends, patterns, and leaders. Those students taking the course as HIS 377 will be required to write a major research paper, in addition to other required writings. Students may elect to take this course at one level, but not both.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Discuss and describe the role that African Americans played in shaping this nation's history.
2. Understand the richness of black culture and to identify the men and women who contributed to both it and mainstream American culture.
3. Synthesize notions of race in conjunction to class and gender to understand diversity in the black community.
4. Demonstrate, in class discussion and on exams, an understanding of why the American racial hierarchy and effects of chattel slavery still resonate in 21st century America.
5. Highlight the brave and selfless actions of millions who fought for the freedom and equality of their race.
6. Develop a research paper on a black intellectual and analyze their ideology both within the context of their era and the 21st century.

Course Topics

1. West African Empires & Culture
2. Transatlantic Slave Trade
3. Enslavement
4. Emancipation & Black Reconstruction
5. Jim Crow Era: Systemic Racism, The Color Line, & Racial Violence
6. Black Leadership, Community, Migration, & Culture
7. Civil Rights Era
8. Black Power
9. Black Lives Matter
10. Black Liberation Culture



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HIS 310 Seminar in Historical Research (3)

Students will define individual topics for their senior research paper after completing a historiographical survey on the proposed topic and identifying major research sources available. This course will lead to the writing of a research proposal to be carried out in HIS 410. Required of all history majors.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Understand the historical method and the means by which historians do their work. This includes using both primary and secondary sources, creating a thesis statement, and supporting arguments with evidence drawn from appropriate source materials.
2. Critically discuss historical topics and their significance in order to make and support historical arguments.
3. Develop a thesis for a large-scale research project.
4. Create a bibliography in Chicago Style that includes both primary and secondary sources.
5. Define questions for historical research by drafting a proposal for a specific topic of interest and inquiry.

Course Topics

1. Historiography
2. Approaches
3. Primary Sources
4. Secondary Sources: Monographs, Edited Volumes, & Journals
5. Book Reviews
6. Annotated Bibliography
7. Chicago Manual of Style 17th Edition
8. Research Questions
9. Research Proposals



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HIS 321 Colonial America and The Revolutionary Era (W) (3)

A study of Colonial America from its origins in North American pre-history and European expansion through the English Colonies to about 1821. Prerequisite: HIS 261 or instructor consent.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Understand European colonization and its subversive effects on Indigenous Peoples and West Africans.
2. Develop a comprehension of the transnational flow of people, goods, and ideas within the Atlantic World.
3. Understand the diversity within the British Colonial experience – particularly in regards to race, class, and gender differences within the North American regions.
4. Recognize the roots of protest in the American Republic.
5. Synthesize the causes of the American Revolution and debate the degree to which it was radical.
6. Analyze the framers' agenda, contributions, and implementation of the Constitution.
7. Debate the political, economic, and social divisions in the New Nation, including the formation of political parties and opposing visions.

Course Topics

1. Indigenous Peoples
2. Empire Building & European Colonization
3. Conformity & Control: New England
4. Diversity & Tolerance: The Mid-Atlantic
5. Class & Racial Disparity: The Chesapeake & South
6. Colonial Dissent & Resistance: Bacon, Stono, & Salem
7. Seven Years War
8. American Revolution
9. War for Independence
10. Articles, Rebellion, & the Constitution
11. Life & Unrest in the New Nation



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HIS 323 Division and Reunion: 1820-1877 (3)

A study of Manifest Destiny, rising sectional tensions, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction Era.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Understand how chattel slavery as a political economic system caused the secession of eleven southern states and the formation of the Confederate States of America.
2. Realize how factors of race, class, and gender are essential for understanding the war and its outcome.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the common soldier's experience.
4. Comprehend the symbiotic relationship between the home front, battlefield, and political administration.
5. Determine whether Reconstruction resulted in a period of change or continuity from the Antebellum Era.
6. Analyze major questions historians currently debate in both class discussion and methods of evaluation.
7. Apply primary sources as evidence to support arguments about the war.

Course Topics

1. Slavery in America
2. Collapse of the Second Party System
3. The Volatile 1850s
4. Confederate Secession
5. Common Soldier Culture, Daily Life, & Resistance
6. Women & the Homefront
7. Freedom Fighters: Enslaved Women, Contraband, & USCTs
8. Combat & Campaigns from 1861-1865
9. Reconstruction & Southern Redemption
10. The Lost Cause & Civil War Memory



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HIS 324 Emergence of Modern America: 1890-1945 (3)

A study of the emergence of modern America as a major industrial and world power from the end of Reconstruction to the outbreak of World War I.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Define and describe “modern America” as well as how and why the definition has changed over time.
2. Read historical sources critically, especially in terms of an author’s thesis and likely biases.
3. Critically discuss historical topics and their significance in order to make and support historical arguments.
4. Understand the historical process, the sources historians use to do their work, and the methods of historical investigation.
5. Recognize and challenge assumptions we often make about the past.

Course Topics

1. Industry and Immigration in America
2. Gilded Age
3. Imperialism
4. Progressives
5. World War I
6. The Twenties
7. Great Depression; Dust Bowl, New Deal
8. World War II, Home Front
9. Early Years of the Atomic Age and Cold War



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HIS 326 America Since 1945 (3)

A study of the history of the United States from the end of World War II to the present.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Be exposed to the basic chronology of American history through readings, and, via quizzes and examinations, demonstrate an understanding of the major events and personalities in the development of the United States after 1945.
2. Be able to distinguish between primary and secondary materials and be able to use both types of sources to make historical arguments.
3. Understand the impact the development of the United States has had on the development of the world in which we live.
4. Demonstrate awareness of the contingent relationships between events of the past and interpretations of the present.

Course Topics

1. Introduction, World War II Ends
2. Origins of Cold War Policy
3. Early Years of the Cold War at Home
4. Happy Days? 1950s America
5. JFK and the New Frontier
6. Struggle for a Just Society
7. Great Society and Liberal Reform
8. New Radicalism
9. The Feminist Movement
10. Vietnam
11. Ronald Reagan and the Transformation of America
12. Economics and Big Business
13. Race and Ethnicity in the late 20th Century
14. Politics and Political Culture in "Postmodern" America
15. Course Research Colloquium



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HIS 331 Illinois History (3)

A survey of the history of Illinois from the earliest times to the present.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Describe broad trends in Illinois history over time using both primary and secondary source materials.
2. Identify important geographical features and major places in the state on maps.
3. Read historical sources critically, including primary sources, and identify an author's thesis and likely biases.
4. Critically discuss historical topics and their significance in order to make and support historical arguments, using source materials.
5. Recognize and challenge assumptions we often make about the past, and recognize the impact those assumptions have on our present and future interpretations of the state's history.

Course Topics

1. Introduction, Indians and the French
2. British Colonial Rule and American Independence
3. From Territory to Statehood, Settling the Frontier
4. Slave State or Free?, Civil War
5. A Modernizing World
6. The Spirit of Reform, An Artistic Renaissance
7. World War I and the Red Scare
8. Prosperity and Depression
9. World War II
10. Postwar Boom and Suburban Growth
11. Turbulence and Change
12. An Uncertain Future



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HIS 345 America by Ear: Modern American History Through Song (3)

This course utilizes the medium of music as a lens to explore aspects of modern American history, culture, and society. Prior completion of HIS 262 is recommended.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Describe broad trends over time using both primary and secondary source materials; songs and lyrics will be our major primary source.
2. Read historical sources critically, including both primary and secondary sources, and identify an author's thesis and likely biases.
3. Critically discuss historical topics and their significance in order to make and support historical arguments using source materials.
4. Recognize and challenge assumptions we often make about the past, and recognize the impact those assumptions have on our present and future interpretations of history.
5. Rectify diverging viewpoints (e.g. pro-war / anti-war) through thoughtful and respectful discourse.

Course Topics

1. Modern Sound Through Tin Pan Alley
2. Gilded Age Begins
3. Industry and Immigration in America
4. Protestors, Politicians, and Imperialists
5. Progressives
6. World War I
7. The Twenties
8. Great Depression; Dust Bowl, New Deal
9. World War II, Home Front
10. Early Years of the Cold War
11. Happy Days, 1950s Culture
12. Limits of Power
13. Struggle for a Just Society
14. Long Road Home
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HIS 372 American Economic History (3)

This course surveys the economic history of the United States from the colonial era to the present. Among the topics to be considered are the mercantile economy of British North America, the economics of slavery, the Industrial Revolution, the cycles of boom and bust, the rise of the service economy in the information age, and the globalization of American economic influence.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Identify the conflicts between both labor and capital and the producer and consumer.
2. Understand how factors of race, class, gender, and the environment complicate the broader narrative of American capitalism.
3. Track the rise and fall of Labor Unions amidst shifts in foreign policy, ideology, and the market.
4. Recognize how the American economy is contingent upon technology, transportation, immigration, war, international diplomacy, advertising, and social movements.
5. Analyze major historical questions historians currently debate over the relationship between government and business.

Course Topics

1. European Imperialism, Settler Colonialism, & the Atlantic World
2. Colonial Economies
3. War for Economic Independence
4. Market Revolution & Labor
5. Gilded Age, Progressive Era, & American Labor Protests and Unionization
6. Depression & New Deal Intervention
7. Military Industrial Complex from WWI to the Middle East
8. Outsourcing, Deregulation, & Globalization



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HIS 410 Senior Thesis in History (W) (3)

This course focuses on the writing of a professional quality research paper based on primary source materials. Students will also be involved in a seminar situation requiring scholarly criticism of each other's papers on a chapter by chapter basis. Completed papers will be presented orally before the campus community. Prerequisites: HIS 110, 310. Required of all history majors.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Articulate original research questions to investigate through historical research.
2. Find, analyze, and draw reasoned conclusions from primary and secondary sources.
3. Engage with latest historiographical trends.
4. Contextualize the topic using a variety of approaches and methods of inquiry.
5. Synthesize research findings and present them clearly and persuasively, both orally and in writing.
6. Share ideas and critique historical works as part of a collegial community of scholars.

Course Topics

1. Historiography
2. Approaches
3. Research Questions
4. Outline
5. Chicago Manual of Style 17th Edition
6. Rough Draft
7. Peer Review
8. Developing a Thesis
9. Oral Presentation
10. Final Paper & Bibliography