

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 3803 Methods of Historical Research

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: 12 hours of History coursework

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Techniques of historical research, critical analysis of historical texts, and written and oral presentation of research results and analysis.

B. Additional Information

The course will be conducted in a seminar format, with each student conducting an original historical research project and presenting his or her findings to the class.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Read and assess the historical credibility of primary and secondary sources.
2. Recognize, find, and use a variety of research tools available to the historian.
3. Write and present a history research paper.
4. Critically analyze the work of other students and other historians.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will write and present research papers.

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will analyze primary and secondary sources. Students will write critiques of selected authors, as well as select and annotate a working bibliography.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Reasons for Studying History
- B. Historiography and Methods of Writing
- C. Methods of Research
- D. Primary Sources and Their Availability
- E. Secondary Sources and Their Biases
- F. Writing a Thesis with Academic Credibility
- G. Interdisciplinary Links to History
- H. Critiquing the Academic Work of Yourself and Others
- I. Presentation of the Finished Product