

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 4803 Seminar in United States History

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): Senior standing, 15 credit hours of United States history, and HIST 3803 Methods of Historical Research

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Advanced Study of a topic in United States history chosen by instructor; includes a major research and writing project incorporating the goals of identifying a problem; establishing a thesis; gathering, evaluating, and analyzing evidence; and writing in an appropriate scholarly format.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Evaluate a particular aspect of United States history using the tools of critical analysis.
2. Discuss and debate a particular aspect of United States history in a seminar setting.
3. Assess the influence of historical interpretation and historiographical schools of thought regarding a particular aspect of United States history.
4. Establish a thesis, conduct original research, and write a scholarly paper conforming to standards of the historical discipline.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

By placing the emphasis on social, cultural, political, and economic factors, students will come to understand the interaction between the United States and other nations.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will use the essay format for written presentation of research projects and will discuss particular aspects of United States History in a seminar setting.

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking**

Students will synthesize material from various sources to complete research projects.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Project topics determined by students
- B. Historiography of the topic
- C. Reiteration and reinforcement of skills learned in HIST 3803 Methods of Historical Research