History 290: Historians and Historical Methodology
California State University, Chico
Spring 2010

Michael Magliari, Instructor
Office: 214 Trinity Hall
Office phone: 898-6332
History Department: 898-5366
Office Hours: W 1:30-3:00, Th 3:30-5:00

READINGS

1. James E. Crisp, Sleuthing the Alamo: Davy Crockett's Last Stand and Other Mysteries of the Texas Revolution.


3. Michael Magliari, Readings in History and Historical Methods: A Course Reader for History 290.


COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, and READINGS

Week 1: Introduction of Course and Assignment of Research Topic

Week 2: Research: Where to Go, and What to Look For

Receive instructions for Bibliography Assignment due Week 9.

Week 3: Being an Historian: Research, Analysis, Argument, and Historiographic Debate

Read and discuss Crisp (entire).

Week 4: Campus Furlough Day: No Class Meeting
Week 5: Library Tour

Meet in front of main reference desk, 2nd floor, Meriam Library

Week 6: Getting Immersed in Your Historical Period: The Importance of Context for both Research and Analysis

Read and discuss articles and chapters in Course Reader on late 19th Century California agriculture by Paul, Fite, Jelinek, and McGowan

Week 7: Internet and Newspaper Research

Read and discuss McMichael (entire), Presnell (pp. 6-8, 40, 68-85, and 136-158) and articles in Course Reader on Wikipedia by Nguyen, Noguchi, Bjerga, Hafner, and Rosenzweig

SPRING BREAK

Week 8: Documentation, Part 1: Bibliographies

Bring both Turabian editions to class for in-class discussion

Week 9: Documentation, Part 2: Footnotes and Endnotes

Read and discuss article in Course Reader on plagiarism by Earl Babbie, and once again bring both Turabian editions to class for in-class discussion

Bibliography Assignment due.

Week 10: Informal Progress Reports: Please have local newspaper research completed

Footnote-Endnote Assignment due.

Week 11: Campuswide Furlough Day (November 2): No Class Meeting

Week 12: Tips for Good Writing

Read and discuss Storey, chapters 3, 8, 9, and 10.

Week 13: Guided Research
Week 14: Guided Research

Optional early due date for preliminary drafts.

Week 15: Class Assessment meeting

TERM PAPERS DUE. Group assessment of course. Optional preliminary drafts returned by instructor.

FINALS Week: FINAL DUE DATE for papers turned in for stylistic review in Week 14

GRADING will be based on class participation, two research documentation assignments, and the successful completion of a research paper assigned during the first week of class. The research paper will be due at the class meeting of Week 15. The brief documentation assignments, along with class participation (i.e. discussion of assigned readings and periodic informal progress reports on research projects), will be equally weighted and will together comprise approximately 50% of the student's course grade. Similarly, the research paper will also comprise approximately 50% of the student's course grade. The paper will actually receive three scores, each counting for one-third of the paper's overall grade. One score will be given for grammar, punctuation, and style; another for research; and a third for analysis. The papers must be documented with either footnotes or endnotes, and must include a complete research bibliography. The notes and bibliography must conform to the style prescribed in Kate Turabian's manual. To help students improve their writing (and perhaps their overall grade!), a preliminary draft of the research paper may be turned in for stylistic review and comment by the instructor by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday of Week 14. Such papers will be returned to the student within one week and will be due for final submission by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday of Finals Week. All students are required to provide the instructor with one extra electronic copy of their final drafts for inclusion in the History Department's SLO Assessments Archive (please submit this to instructor as an e-mail attachment).

Student Learning Outcomes: Among other goals, this course is specifically designed to help students achieve Outcomes #1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 of the History Department's Student Learning Outcomes for the History Major.