

The University of Arkansas
Department of History
Fall Term 2009
Historiography and Historical Methods
Course Number: HI. 5023-001

I. Professor's Information

Name: Dr. Calvin White, Jr.
Course Location: Old Main 0417
Course Meeting Times: Wednesday 2:30-5:20 p.m.

Office Location: **Old Main 509**
Office Hours: MWF 12:30- 2:30 p.m. and by appointment
Phone number: 575-5702
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II. Course Description:

This course examines the discipline of history from a historiographical and methods perspective and focuses upon three primary questions: What is History; how is it studied and written; and finally why is it important? The course, as a whole, is made up of several components all of which place the student center stage. Although this course is a lecture and reading class examining the history of the profession, its many sects and emphases and the overall practice of "doing history," it is also about the research, writing, development and presentation of original research. This is where the student will advance the learning opportunities provided by the course over the semester.

By the end of the course, students should have a sound grasp of the inner and outer workings of the practice of history and be able to think critically about significant historical issues, problems and evolving arguments. Students will also be able to use modern techniques of historical research, writing, question and thesis formation and presentation of original research. After this course, students should be better prepared for graduate level research.

Academic Objectives:

- a.) Gain advanced knowledge of historical writing and research techniques and application
- b.) Enhance critical thinking skills and its application towards dissecting and understanding the significance and impact of historical issues and research

III. Required Readings:

Students should purchase the required readings at the very start of the semester to avoid difficulties resulting from availability issues. Any student who has trouble locating the material must notify me immediately. Lack of a book, however, does not equal a legitimate excuse for incomplete work.

Required Readings:

Gerald N. Grob & George Athan Billias, *Interpretations of American History: Patterns and Perspectives*, 8th Edition, Volume 2 Since Reconstruction (2009) ISBN# 0-02-912686

Collin Grant, *Negro With A Hat: The Rise and Fall of Marcus Garvey*, 1st Edition.
ISBN# 98-0-19536794-2

E. David Cronon, *Black Moses: The Story of Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro
Improvement Association*, ISBN# 978-0-299-01214-4

Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Thesis, and Dissertations* 7th Edition
(2007)

Course Requirements:

Students are required to attend each class meeting, read all assignments with a critical eye and complete all written work when given. Students can expect absences to negatively affect their overall grade. If a student **has** to miss a class, s/he must present an official document of excuse; all excuses will be filed away and reexamined at the end of the semester. It is important that students (if at all possible) avoid missing any classes. Students with disabilities, **verified through the department of Student Support Services**, should notify the professor immediately of any required classroom accommodations.

Grades:

This course requires each student to conduct original research based upon primary and secondary source materials. The final paper must be 10 to 15 pages in length and will require diligence, careful planning and self-discipline to complete. It is imperative that students began the paper as soon as possible to get a jump on the research process and be able to adjust to any problems that may arise. In other words, do not wait to the last minute to begin the project as this will be reflected in your final paper. The course consists of a series of assignments related to the final paper as well as other assignments that will assist in your preparing the final paper. Each task must be completed and turned in on time (unless an accepted and documented emergency prevents this) as late assignments will not be accepted. The following breaks down the assignment schedule:

Paper Topic Proposal	100 points
Newspaper analytical reviews	50 points
Preliminary Bibliography	100 points
Revised Proposal	50 points
Participation	50 points
Final Paper	200points

The grading scale used for this course reflects the standard A through F scale: 100-90= A;
89-80= B; 79-70= C; 69-60= D; 59 and below = F

Examination Makeup Policy:

If you miss an assignment because of a legitimate excuse (supported by documentation) you must contact me immediately to schedule a makeup test. Students have one day after the day of the missed exam to make it up, after that he or she will earn a zero on the assignment unless an extended rescheduling period has been agreed upon. **If a student has a problem with an earned grade on an assignment, s/he must wait 24 hours before meeting with the professor to discuss it.**

IV. Class Behavior:

Absence and Tardiness:

When you enroll in this course you are, in effect, agreeing to attend scheduled meeting times. Be forewarned that attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting and one can expect absences to have a negative impact on your overall grade. If you are absent for a class meeting it is your responsibility to makeup any work, acquire any missed information from your fellow classmates, and provide documentation to the instructor. Tardiness will not be tolerated and habitual lateness can also hurt your grade so do not make a habit of arriving late for class.

Cell Phones and other Electronic Forms of Communication:

Cell phones and such are not allowed in operation mode at anytime during the class period. If a cell phone, pager or any other electronic device interrupts class, the offending student(s) may be asked to leave the classroom and recorded absent for the day regardless of the time of the infraction.

Discussion of Classroom Topics:

Due to the nature of this course, student participation is paramount. As a result, the class is structured to initiate student participation and to provide opportunities to engage in meaningful dialog regarding the practice of history and historical research. Although lectures make up a large part of the class structure, the overall objective is to create an environment conducive to the expansion of ideas, arguments, and subjects introduced in lecture and to the development of individual perspectives regarding the historical profession. Thus, individuals who actively participate in course discussions will benefit the most from this course.

Sleeping and Newspapers:

It is a known and accepted fact that we all get tired at some point in time, sleeping in class however, is not an accepted remedy. Napping in class is not only rude to the professor and all those assembled, it also reflects poorly upon the offending individual. Reading of newspapers in class is simply rude behavior and will not be tolerated. Infractions of either sort may result in the student being asked to leave the class and awarded an absence for the day.

Important Dates:

Paper Proposal due.....	September 16
Preliminary Bibliography.....	October 14
Revised Paper Proposal due.....	September 23
Newspaper source reviews due.....	November 11
Holiday.....	November, 25-29.
Final Paper due.....	December 2

V. Class Schedule for Required Readings and Assignments: (Schedule subject to changes and additions.) The following outlines the completion dates for each reading assignment so that students are prepared to participate in class discussions and follow the course of the lectures.

A. What is History and why does it matter?

Week 1	August 24-28	Introduction/ What is History
Week 2	August 31-September 4	GB -Introduction 1-28

Week 3	September 7 (Labor Day)-11	GB - <i>The American Businessman</i> 28-58
Week 4	September 14-18	GB - <i>Women in History</i> 67-105
Week 5	September 21-25	GB - <i>Black History Since 1865</i> 116-156
Week 6	September 28-October 2	Beth Juhl David Mullins Library
Week 7	October 5-9	Beth Juhl David Mullins Library
Week 8	October 12-16	GB - <i>American Imperialism</i> 175-200
Week 9	October 19-23	<i>Negro With A Hat</i>
Week 10	October 26-30	<i>Negro With A Hat</i>
Week 11	November 2-6	<i>Black Moses</i>
Week 12	November 9-13	<i>Black Moses</i>
Week 13	November 16-20	GB- <i>The New Deal</i> 271-288
Week 14	November 23-27 [Wed. 25th-Fri. 27th = Fall Break/Thanksgiving]	
Week 15	November 30-December 4	Papers Due
Week 16	December 7-11 [End of classes is Tues., 8th/Dead Day is Wed., 9th]	