HST 290: The Practice of History

Tuesdays 9:30-10:45
Thursdays 9:30-11:45

Research Theme: Americans and Tourism from the Early Republic Through the Cold War Era

Tourists and Tour Guide at Chichen Itza, Mexico, 1970 from 35mm Ektachrome slide courtesy of Vintage Vacation Photos

Course Description

This is a course in the historian’s craft; its goals are to help you develop the skills necessary to produce high quality upper level research papers that conform to the requirements of the historical field. We will cover concepts like historiography, methodology, and historical ethics. We will also practice question framing, conducting primary and secondary source research, documenting sources, writing effective prose, revising, and presenting your research.

An effective historical research paper results from a measured process, not a couple weeks of cramming. Methods are designed, tested, and reformulated. Papers are drafted, revised, analyzed, and revised again. This is not an easy process, and developing a work plan to meet goals is an important part of this course.

The theme of this seminar is the history of American tourism, both domestic and international. We will examine how tourism changed from the Early Republic through the end of the Cold War era and explore the connections between tourism and work, politics, civil rights, foreign relations, gender, class, and economics. With your final research paper, you will have made an original contribution to the historiography on this topic.

HST290 fulfills University Studies requirements for the categories “Writing Intensive” and “Information Literacy.” For more information on these, and for a list of the History Department’s Student Learning Outcomes, please see: http://www.uncw.edu/hst/majors/learninggoals.html

Information

Instructor  
Tammy S. Gordon, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of History

Office  
264 Morton Hall

E-mail  
gordont@uncw.edu

Office Hours  
Tuesdays, 11-1; Wednesdays 9-1, and other times by appointment

Skype  
UNCWPpublichistory (during office hours)

Class Web Site  
http://people.uncw.edu/stonegordon/HST290.html

Detail, Winslow Homer’s Man With Knapsack, 1873
Required Readings (available on reserve at the Randall Library)

Books:
Cindy S. Aron, Working at Play: A History of Vacations in the United States
Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (8th Ed.)

Required articles on reserve:
Lyth, “‘Think of her as your mother’: Airline Advertising and the Stewardess in America, 1930-1980”
Seiler, “‘So That We as a Race Might Have Something Authentic to Travel By’: African American
Automobility and Cold War Liberalism”

Most of the reading in this class is self-directed. When you choose a research topic, you will read books
and articles on that topic as well as relevant primary source material.

NOTE: You will also need to purchase a 7.5x9.5-inch composition book to record notebook entries.

Requirements and Grading

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working Outline</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed Draft</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revised Draft</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance (40 meetings/ .5 points per meeting)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Notebook (pre-class writings, in-class activities)</td>
<td>5</td>
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Final grades will be determined on the following scale:

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>96-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-95</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>80-82</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
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<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
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Each class will be a meeting for which all participants need to be prepared and engaged. Before class, you will be e-mailed a meeting agenda that will outline the meeting’s order and every participant’s responsibilities. Bring the agenda to class.

Participating in a professional environment also means you have a responsibility for the successful outcome of each class. You will need to have prepared all pre-class assignments and discuss them in class. Texting or otherwise looking at phones during meetings is considered unprofessional behavior. Leaving and returning to meetings while they are in progress is also unprofessional; take care of all bathroom and snack needs before class. If you need to leave for an emergency, do not return. During long classes, a five-minute break will take place between meeting sessions.

Just as in a work setting, you have a responsibility to report missed meetings. If you are too ill to attend or have had a death in the family, you may still earn points for attendance provided you do the following:

1. Inform the instructor BEFORE the class you will miss.
2. Meet with the instructor during office hours within one week of the absence to discuss what was missed and how this material may be made up.

If you miss class for any reason other than illness or death in the family, or if you fail to follow the above procedure, you will not receive attendance points for that day.

Students are expected to abide by the UNCW Honor Code. Any form of plagiarism will result in the failure of the assignment and may result in expulsion from the class or the university. A pdf copy of the UNCW Honor Code is available at http://uncw.edu/odos/honorcde/.

This course is a demanding one. It is important to keep up with the class readings and with the readings for your paper. This means daily work. If your schedule is particularly rigorous this semester, you may want to reconsider and take this class when your schedule is easier. You will have no spare time or energy to waste whining or procrastinating. Here’s an applicable quote from a wise person:

“’It’s not the load that breaks you down. It’s the way you carry it.”

--Singer/Performer Lena Horne
Procedure For Turning in Assignments

Papers will be submitted via e-mail as attachments to gordont@uncw.edu. Papers are due no later than 9:00am on the due date listed in the schedule. Papers not received on time will be penalized two points per day. Submit properly formatted papers in Microsoft Word as attachments. The file names need to indicate the class, assignment, and your last name, like these models:

Annotated Bibliography of Secondary Sources: HST290_AB_YourLastName
Proposal: HST290_P_YourLastName
Working Outline: HST290_O_YourLastName
Draft: HST290_D_YourLastName
Revised Draft: HST290_RD_YourLastName

The subject line for assignment submission e-mails should read: “HST290: Your Last Name”. Papers will be graded and returned in PDF with comments and a completed grading form.

If you would like comments on an early draft of any assignment, print out a copy and bring it by during office hours. I cannot effectively comment on early drafts over e-mail.

“Don't Be Afraid” postcard depicting bathing machine, 1910, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
**Course Schedule**

January 14: Course introduction
*January 16: Aron, 1-11

January 21: Aron, 15-44; discuss historiography; attendance points count begins
*January 23: Aron, 45-68; discuss conventions of academic writing

January 28: Aron, 69-126
*January 30: Aron, 127-177; discuss primary and secondary sources

February 4: Aron, 181-205; discuss method and paper topics
*February 6: Turabian, Chapter 1; How to Use a Research Library I: Secondary Sources (mandatory session: you must attend in order to turn in an annotated source list); Randall Library Instruction Room.

February 11: Storey, chapter 1 and Turabian, chapter 2 and 3; discuss development of paper topics
*February 13: Aron, 206-261; discuss topic development

February 18: *Annotated Bibliography Due*; discuss proposal
*February 20: How to Use a Research Library II: Primary Sources (mandatory session: you must attend in order to turn in a proposal); Randall Library Instruction Room.

February 25: Lyth, “’Think of her as your mother’: Airline Advertising and the Stewardess in America, 1930-1980”; discuss elements of the proposal

March 4-6: No class—spring break:

March 11: Seiler, “‘So That We as a Race Might Have Something Authentic to Travel By’: African American Automobility and Cold War Liberalism”
*March 13: Bring copies of your proposal for workshop

March 18: *Paper Proposals With Revised Annotated Bibliographies Due*; discuss outlines
*March 20: discuss paper development and use of evidence

March 25: Storey, Chapters 3 and 4, “Writing History Faithfully” and “Use Sources to Make Inferences” and Turabian, Chapter 4; discuss note-taking and interpretive differences
*March 27: Storey, Chapters 5, “Get Writing!” and Turabian, Chapters 5 and 6; discuss argument and organization

*Indicates dates on which two class meetings take place
Schedule, continued

April 1: Working Outline/Revised Bibliography Due; discuss drafting and footnoting
*April 3: methods of effective drafting; Turabian Chapter 7; Storey, chapters 6 and 7, “Build an Argument” and “Narrative Techniques for Historians”

April 8: Storey, Chapters 8 and 9, “Writing Sentences in History” and “Choose Precise Words”; Turabian, Chapter 9; discuss revision and conference presentations
*April 10: Workshop: bring 1 printed copy of draft; Storey, Chapter 10, “Revising and Editing”; Turabian, Chapter 11; discuss editing and formatting

April 15: Completed Paper Due; read Turabian Chapter 13; discuss conference presentations
April 17: No class-state holiday

April 22: Conference Presentations
*April 24: Conference Presentations

April 29: Conference Presentations; Notebooks due in class

Monday, May 5, before 11:00am: Revised Draft Due

Congratulations on the completion of HST 290!
Be sure to get your “I survived HST 290” t-shirt.