HISTORY 210: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY

Fall 2012
Tuesday, Thursday
12:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m., Founders Hall Room 236

Dr. Hamilton

Office: Founders Hall 157

Contact Information: Office Tel: 826-5765 and email: dlh7003@humboldt.edu Please note that the very best way to contact me is through email, but if you do call and leave a message, please be sure to include a telephone number where I can reach you. I usually check my email frequently through the day, so if you need to reach me, please make email your first choice.

Since spam is becoming a serious problem, please put “History 210” or “Intro to History” in the subject line of your email, otherwise I will delete it.

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. and other times by appointment. If you need to see me, it would be helpful if you would make an appointment, even if you plan to come during office hours. That way I can make sure every student who needs to meet with me will not be interrupted by “drop bys.” You should note that I sometimes have to step out of the office to do such things as collect my mail, return videos to the library, etc., so if I am not in when you knock, stick around – I will be back momentarily. Also, there may be times when I will need to cancel office hours, and on those occasions, I will try to let you know in advance. Notice will also be posted on my office door.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course will introduce you to the academic field of history, and help prepare you for upper-division coursework (including Senior Seminar) within the History Major. The course will introduce you first of all to historiography, how history has been interpreted and written across time. Each generation rewrites the past according to its own experiences and values, and out of this constant revision have come several philosophies of history and theories of historical change. An understanding of historiography, then, can help you use both primary and secondary sources in more sophisticated and analytical ways. This course will also introduce you to historical methods, in which we will explore the variety of primary sources that historians use in their work, as well as the ways in which those sources can be analyzed.

This course will call upon you to produce your own work of history, utilizing primary and secondary research, and proper citation format. This research paper component will give you an opportunity to utilize the historical methods you have learned, while continuing to work on the writing skills that are central to a college education generally. Please note that a "C-" is the minimum grade for passing this course.

This HSU History Department has identified eight main skills that should be addressed in History 210:
1. Research Skills/Gathering Sources
2. Facility with Primary and Secondary Sources
3. Critical Thinking
4. History Methodologies
5. Historiography
6. Facility in Oral Presentation
7. Production of Coherent and Analytical Historical Writing
8. Technology

This course has been designed to address these eight skills. The format of this course is primarily discussion. This course has no prerequisites, although it is required of all History majors and minors. Students are strongly urged to take this class before proceeding to upper division History courses. **Students pursuing a History major or minor must earn a C- or better for this course to count within the major.**

**Required Texts:**


There will be additional short readings that are either on reserve in the library or accessible through the internet. Some, although not all of these are marked in the Daily Schedule.

*Please note* that everything that is discussed or presented in class is just as required as the hardcopy texts.

**HSU Learning Outcomes:** This course explicitly contributes to students’ acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to HSU Learning Outcomes listed below:

HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

1. Effective communication through written and oral modes.
2. Critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues.
3. Competence in a major area of study.
4. Appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with a diverse range of individuals, communities, and viewpoints.

HSU graduates will be prepared to:
5. Succeed in their chosen careers.
6. Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.
7. Pursue social justice, promote environmental responsibility, and improve economic conditions in their workplaces and communities.

Class Policies and General Expectations:

Overview

This is a four-unit course that will require a substantial amount of reading, research, and writing. It is also structured along a seminar rather than lecture format. What this means is that the success of the course depends on your careful and consistent preparation for class discussion and in-class activities. If you fail to prepare for class you fail not only yourself, but your peers, who are relying on your input and participation. As a consequence, you will be graded on classroom participation, and I reserve the right to quiz you orally or in written form if I believe you are not keeping up with the work. One of the quickest routes to a poor grade in this course is to come to class unprepared and to remain silent during class discussions. Indeed, I do not and will not be put into the position of having to call on students individually – it is expected that you will contribute regularly in class without having to be called upon.

Specifics

1. This is university-level work and you are expected to prepare for and attend every class session. If you miss class, for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to make the adjustments necessary to recover from the absence. Do not ask me what you missed (and never ever ask me if “we did anything important” in class!). Consult with your peers. If there is a handout I will gladly supply it if you ask, but I simply cannot give individual tutorials to students who miss class. Previous experience suggests that students who do not regularly attend class do not pass. And many who do not work as directed outside class do not pass, or pass only marginally. PLEASE NOTE: the agencies that accredit colleges and universities across the US expect that students spend at least two hours working outside of class for every hour spent in class. Do the math – that’s an average of eight hours a week (!) for a four unit class such as this. If you are a taking a full load of 15 units, you need to keep the larger picture well in view: at 45 hours per week (15 in class, 30 outside of class) your education is more than a full-time job.

2. Tests and other graded exercises are based on assignments and on what we do in class. Quizzes are typically given at the beginning of class, which means that if you are late to class, for whatever reason, you may end up missing a quiz. Do not ask me if you can take the quiz after class! We will have gone over the material in class by then, and it would be unfair to the other students. Only under truly exceptional circumstances (death in the family, extreme dire illness, broken limb, official HSU event such as an away sporting event in which you will be participating, etc.) will I even discuss a make-up quiz. You should be aware that any make-up quiz will be different from the one given to the class, and that you must be prepared to take it the first day you return to class. Also, if you arrive after class has started, do not stop the class in order to request any materials handed out.
3. Because there are many things that are graded in this class, you are required to keep a complete file of graded materials returned to you. I may ask you to produce this file at the end of the term. If there is any question about your final grade, you can simply show me your work. If you do not keep a file with all class work, I will rely on marks in my grade book.

4. The acceptance of late work generally will be done only under exceptional circumstances (death in the family, extreme dire illness, broken limb, etc.) and only at the discretion of the instructor! If you anticipate being absent from class on the day an assignment is due because of an official HSU event (such as an away sporting event), assignments may be turned in early but not late. If you anticipate turning in work late (because of death in the family, extreme dire illness, broken limb, etc.) you MUST MUST MUST consult with me in advance. 

Do not simply deposit work in my mail box – I will return it to you without credit! Also see no. 7 below. If late work is accepted (and remember you need a serious and compelling reason and advance permission to turn something in late!) it may be marked down one letter grade for each day (Saturdays and Sundays included) the assignment is late. If it is agreed that you may turn in a piece of work that is late, and I am not in the office to accept it, you must have someone in the History office (secretary, faculty member, student assistant) initial and date the work you are placing in my mailbox. Please note: students often get confused about the mail boxes in the department and frequently put materials in the wrong slot. I strongly urge you to let the secretary or student assistant put any material I have agreed to accept in my box for you.

5. Please be aware that ANY DISHONEST ACTIVITY WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT YOUR GRADE! I cannot stress this enough. Any student who cheats IN ANY WAY on any of the quizzes will fail the course. Any student who plagiarizes any of their other work will also fail the course. Ignorance of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism is never an excuse for committing it (please see the section below on Academic Honesty, which contains a link to HSU’s policy on this issue).

6. Unless there is a family emergency (death in the family, extreme dire illness, broken limbs, etc.) and an exam is involved, you do not have to call me to announce an impending absence, although doing so is appreciated. I will certainly be aware of any absences when attendance is taken at the beginning of class. If you do have a family emergency, and it impinges directly on this class, contact me either by telephone or email and include a telephone number where you may be reached. If there is a true emergency and an assignment is involved, we will discuss your turning it in late, but do not simply assume that you may automatically do so. Also, please note that just because you call or send an email indicating you will be absent does not mean that the absence will be “excused.” There are no excused absences. You will be counted absent if you are not here. Period.

7. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. A sheet of paper will be passed around at the beginning of class for students to sign and I will record those present in my grade book. Sign only your name. It is cheating to sign someone else’s name on their behalf, and HSU’s policy on cheating will apply in such a circumstance, at least to the signee. Roll sheets will be kept on file so that any questions arising over attendance can be quickly settled. Late students can sign the roll sheet only at the discretion of the instructor. If you leave before the class is over, you may be recorded as absent. PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU MISS MORE THAN
THREE CLASSES YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE. PERIOD. NO DISCUSSION. Missing more than six hours of class is a recipe for disaster in your future upper division classes, and I do not set up students to fail. Also, please see HSU’s policy on Attendance and Disruptive Behavior, which is included below.

8. Student Athletes and Student Activities – If you have to miss class because you are participating in an official, HSU athletic or organized student event, it will be up to you to make up the absence, that is, it will be up to you to get the notes from someone in class. I will consider make-up quizzes on a case-by-case basis (and any such quizzes will be different from what the rest of the class has taken). You will also be counted absent on the days you miss. As for other assignments, you must turn these in in advance of your absence! You will also need to turn in all relevant paperwork from the official HSU event sponsor/coordinator (coach, faculty advisor, etc.) in advance of any absence.

9. Computers and Cell Phone Policy – If you use a computer to take notes, you must sit at the front of the class (the first two or three rows) and be prepared to show me at the end of every class that you have, indeed, been taking notes. Using a computer in class is a privilege, not a right and if you abuse that privilege it will be revoked. Turn off your cell phones and put them away when you come to class. If I see a cell phone in your hand during class, I can only assume that you are attending to matters unrelated to this class. You will be asked to leave and will be counted absent for that day. However, if you are dealing with an emergency situation, tell me at the beginning of class.

Course Requirements and Grades:

40% - “Search and Seizure” Papers (1 @ 10% and 2 @ 15%) – There will be three library workshops during the first half of the semester. These will familiarize you with different kinds of primary sources and how to locate, use, and cite them. After each workshop, you will be assigned a brief research project that will require you to put into practice what you have learned in the library workshop. These assignments will be explained further as we work our way through the first half of the semester.

30% - Research Paper - You will produce a research paper focusing on a topic of your own choosing (with input from me as well as from your peers). The due date for this paper is clearly marked in the Daily Schedule. We will talk more about this in class.

Review of Paper Conventions: This is a formal paper assignment and the language should reflect that fact (avoid colloquialisms, slang, profanity, etc.). The paper must have a title page, footnotes, and bibliography (following the Chicago Manual of Style) and be between 10 and 11 pages exclusive of title page, bibliography, appendices, illustrations, etc.! The other usual conditions also apply and include but are not limited to the following: the paper should be double spaced and paginated at the bottom of the paper; the actual text of the paper should begin on line one at the top of page one; you should not section your paper, tamper with font size, spacing, or margins, or quote excessively to artificially lengthen your paper; etc. Direct quotes should be chosen carefully to
emphasize a point. Misspellings, problems with grammar and organization, inability to meet the page length requirement, typos and other surface errors, etc., will adversely affect your grade. The due date for the paper is clearly marked in the schedule.

5% - In preparing the research paper you will submit a **Formal Statement of your Topic and Research Question**; a **Preliminary Annotated Bibliography**; and **Rough as well as Improved Drafts** (the due dates for these are clearly marked in the Daily Schedule). *Keep track of these materials after they are graded and returned to you because you are required to submit them alongside your final version in a folder.*

15% - **Discussion Work/Group Work/Participation** – Throughout the semester you will be called upon to demonstrate your knowledge of the assigned readings and concepts being covered in class. You will also be expected to participate in peer review of others’ papers, and occasionally to work in groups to summarize and analyze assigned articles and readings, including the Gilderhus book. *Let me reiterate here that one of the quickest routes to a poor grade in this course is to come to class unprepared and/or to remain silent during class discussions and group work.* I expect you to stay awake, take notes, and participate in discussions. If it looks like you are not keeping up with the reading and assignments, I will begin administering quizzes. Questions are welcome, but chatting with your neighbors is not. Turn off your cell phone before class begins. *If I see a cell phone in your hand during class you will be asked to leave and you will be counted absent for that day.* If you are dealing with an emergency situation, **tell me at the beginning of class. AGAIN, PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU MISS MORE THAN THREE CLASSES YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE. PERIOD. NO DISCUSSION.**

5% - **Film Review** – You will watch a film that purports to be historically based. I have a list of acceptable videos you may consult, and I am also open to suggestions, within reason. Since films/videos may have no more than two students reviewing them, you must clear with me the film you want to watch. You will then write a 2-3 page, word-processed review of the film. Include in your review such considerations as whether the film is an accurate reflection of the events or period under examination, how it may have deviated from the historical record, whether such deviations were minor or significant, etc. *This means you will have to do some reading about the period under consideration if you don’t already know the period well.* Lastly, answer the question of whether or not you think the kind of film you watched should be historically accurate. Any plot summary should be **BRIEF**, and take up less than ¼ of the entire review. The text of your review should begin at the **TOP** of page one. The usual paper conventions apply (please see under Research Paper). The due date for the paper is clearly marked in the schedule.

5% - **Oral Presentations** – You will give a formal 10-12 minute PowerPoint presentation based on some aspect of your research paper. You will discuss not only the topic itself, but the process and methodology used to research the topic. We will go over more specific criteria later in the semester.
Grades:

- 95-100% = A
- 90-94% = A-
- 87-89% = B+
- 84-86% = B
- 80-83% = B-
- 77-79% = C+
- 74-76% = C
- 70-73% = C-
- 67-69% = D+
- 64-66% = D
- 60-63% = D-
- 0-59% = F

NOTE: I do not give grades in this class, students earn them. As to what these grades mean, please see the following explanations as outlined in the current HSU catalogue:

- A range – Superior
- B range – Good, above average
- C range – Average

Please note that a "C-" is the minimum grade for passing this course. If you want a higher grade, your work must demonstrate a "good, above average" or "superior" quality. **DO NOT TELL ME WHAT GRADE YOU “NEED” IN THIS CLASS!** You will get the grade you have earned!

**Academic honesty:** Students are responsible for knowing HSU’s policy regarding academic honesty. For more information, see page 268 of HSU’s Catalogue ([http://www.humboldt.edu/humboldt/catalogpdfs/catalog2007-08.pdf](http://www.humboldt.edu/humboldt/catalogpdfs/catalog2007-08.pdf))

**Students with Disabilities:** Persons who wish to request disability-related accommodations (such as taking exams in the Testing Center) should contact the Student Disability Resource Center in House 71, 826-4678 (voice) or 826-5392 (TDD). Some accommodations may take up to several weeks to arrange. See also [http://www.humboldt.edu/disability/](http://www.humboldt.edu/disability/)

**Add/Drop policy:** Students are responsible for knowing HSU’s policy, procedures, and schedule for dropping or adding classes. See [Schedule Adjustments (Adding or Dropping)](http://www.humboldt.edu/humboldt/catalogpdfs/catalog2007-08.pdf)

**Emergency evacuation:** Directions for an emergency evacuation are posted on the orange signs in class. You should also review what to do in an emergency at Emergency Operations ([http://www.humboldt.edu/emergencymgmtprogram/campus_emergency_preparedness.php](http://www.humboldt.edu/emergencymgmtprogram/campus_emergency_preparedness.php)). During an emergency, information can be found campus conditions at: 826-INFO or [http://www.humboldt.edu/humboldt/emergency](http://www.humboldt.edu/humboldt/emergency)

**Attendance and Disruptive behavior:** Students are responsible for knowing HSU’s policy regarding attendance and disruptive behavior. This can be found on pp. 275-276 of HSU’s Catalogue ([http://www.humboldt.edu/humboldt/catalogpdfs/catalog2007-08.pdf](http://www.humboldt.edu/humboldt/catalogpdfs/catalog2007-08.pdf))