



COURSE SYLLABUS
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

HIST 3301: Reading & Writing Like an Historian
Spring 2024
CRN 23442 - Sec 002 (Face-to-Face)

Instructor: Francis X. Galán, Ph.D.

Office: Central Academic Building (CAB), Room 313-I

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs, 11:00am-12:00pm, or by Appt (in-person/virtual)

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Class Meetings: Tues/Thurs, 12:30pm-1:45pm, Classroom Hall, Room 303

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides students with an overview of the paradigms and approaches that guide research and writing about the historical past. It also surveys important historiographical traditions and trends. The goal is for students to understand how historians approach the profession, both intellectually (what is “history” and why do we study it) as well as practically (what are the different approaches to historical writing). We will be covering a variety of historical genres, including social, cultural, gender, environmental, colonial, postcolonial, etc.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. assess the historiography of a subject;
2. analyze and interpret secondary sources; and
3. understand differing approaches to the study of history.

MEANS OF ASSESSMENT:

Assignments	Outcomes to be Assessed	% of Final Grade
Attendance	All	10%
Weekly Readings, Quizzes, Discussion	All	25%
Annotated Bibliography (March 7)	All	10%
Historiographical Essay draft (April 11)	All	20%
Analytical Paper (April 26)	All	15%
Historiographical Essay Final (May 7)	All	20%

Grade Scale: A (90%-up); B (80-89%); C (70-79%); D (60-69%); F (0-59%)

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Joaquín Rivaya Martínez, *Indigenous Borderlands: Native Agency, Resilience, and Power in the Americas* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2023)

Supplemental reading and multimedia materials: via Blackboard (Bb)

ASSIGNMENTS:

Attendance Policy (10%):

Students are expected to attend classes in person each week (see Course Calendar below, pp. 7-9, for Class Meeting dates). If you know in advance that you will miss a scheduled class meeting, please notify me immediately so that you will not be marked absent. More than **three unexcused absences** from class meetings will result in a drop of one letter grade from your overall final grade for the course or an “F” for more than seven unexcused absences.

Weekly Readings, Quizzes, Discussion (25%):

Students will submit low-stakes written assignments via Blackboard (Bb) and take quizzes in class based off the assigned readings, discussion, film, primary and secondary source analysis. You will be graded on the quality of your contributions and your ability to analyze, think critically, and discuss course concepts. *Note:* Points will be subtracted from your final score for being turned in past the due date and the same applies to all high-stakes assignments during the semester described below.

Annotated Bibliography (10%):

The annotated bibliography will help you with writing your historiographical essay, which examines what historians have argued about a particular topic that you will choose based upon your own interests. Include anywhere from five-to-eight secondary sources (books/articles) and briefly discuss (annotate) each source: 1) describe the source; 2) thesis (main argument); and 3) how it will help your historiographical essay. The **Due Date** for your annotated bibliography is **Thursday, March 7** (via Blackboard Message).

Analytical Paper (15%):

I will provide you with a **Guide (& Rubric) to Writing the Analytical Paper**. The format for this paper will be three pages in length (or 750 words), typed, double-spaced, and 12-point font (Times New Roman). You will analyze a chapter from Dr. Joaquín Rivaya Martínez’s book, *Indigenous Borderlands: Native Agency, Resilience, and Power in the Americas*. The **Due Date** for the Analytical Paper is **Friday, April 26** (by Midnight) via Turnitin in Bb, which checks for plagiarism, including AI (see Academic Misconduct Policy below, page 3).

Historiographical Essay Draft (20%):

I will provide you with a **Guide (& Rubric) to Writing the Historiographical Essay**. The format will be eight-to-ten pages in length (or 2,000 to 2,500 words), typed, double-spaced, and 12-point font (Times New Roman). The **Due Date** for this draft is **Thursday, April 11** (by Midnight) via Turnitin in Bb (see Academic Misconduct Policy below, page 3).

Historiographical Essay Final (20%):

Same format as the draft. Be sure to make corrections based off the edits that I make on your draft. The **Due Date** for this final version is **Tuesday, May 7** (by Midnight) via Turnitin in Bb (see Academic Misconduct Policy below, page 3).

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

Academic Misconduct Policy: Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic Dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submission, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook (<http://www.tamusa.tamus.edu/studenthandbook.html>).

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment or a failing grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.

NOTE ABOUT AI: All student papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software. Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, **AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.**

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health

concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student’s academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

In a crisis situation, please walk-in to the Student Counseling Center (SCC) any time between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM to be seen by a licensed clinician. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text “HOME” to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email and/or phone call with instructions and updates.

To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing Center: The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing assistance to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can make individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 208. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment,

drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

Respect for Diversity: We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the class, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community.

While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination

prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more.

The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions for the student freedom and responsibility to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System. This includes the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and the administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, University Catalog and students must comply with them and the laws of the land.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals

involved and upon the entire university community.

4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.

5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

6. We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or gender.



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO**

COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK ONE: Introduction to the Course and The Five C's

Read (1/16): Syllabus, via Blackboard (Bb).

Read (1/18): Benjamin, "How Historians Think," in *A Student's Guide to History*, pp. 4-7 (Bb).

Think about a topic for your Historiographical Essay

WEEK TWO: Finding your own Approach to History and Interests

Read (1/23): Benjamin, "Approaches to History," pp. 7-14 (Bb).

Read (1/25): Storey, "Explore your Interests," "Find a Motive and a Question," and "Focus your Interests Early," in *Writing History: A Guide for Students*, pp. 8-10 (Bb).

WEEK THREE: Library Resources and "AI"

Guest Presenter (1/30): Leslie Stapleton, Librarian, Texas A&M-SA.

Read (2/1): Robyn Ross, "Ghost in the Machine," *Alcalde* (Jan-Feb 2024), pp. 36-42 (Bb) **for Written Assignment #1.**

WEEK FOUR: Writing the Annotated Bibliography

Read (2/6): Storey, "Work with Bibliographies," pp. 10-17 (Bb).

Read (2/8): Storey, "Write an Annotated Bibliography," pp. 30-32 (Bb).

Topic for your Historiographical Essay is due Tuesday, February 6 (during class)

WEEK FIVE: Citing Sources (Bibliography and Footnotes)

Read (2/13): Benjamin, "Documenting Your Paper: How to Cite in Chicago Style," pp. 183-193 (Bb).

Quiz (2/15): Citing Sources.

WEEK SIX: Social History Approach

Read (2/20): Jim Sharpe, "History from Below," in Peter Burke, ed., *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*, pp. 25-42 (Bb) **for Written Assignment #2.**

WEEK SEVEN: Women's History Approach

Read (2/27): Joan Scott, "Women's History," in Burke, *New Perspectives*, pp. 43-70 (Bb) **for Written Assignment #3.**

Note: No class meeting on Thurs (Feb 29).

WEEK EIGHT: Source Analysis

Read: Storey, "Use Sources to Make Inferences," pp. 43-57 (Bb).

Read: Benjamin, "Evaluating and Interpreting Historical Evidence," pp. 65-84 (Bb).

Note: No class meetings on Tues (March 5) and Thurs (March 7).

Annotated Bibliography is due by Thursday, March 7 (via Bb Message)

Spring Break – No Classes (March 11-17)

WEEK NINE (3/19 and 3/21): Latina/o History

Read: Vicki L. Ruiz, "Nuestro América: Latino History as United States History," *Journal of American History* (December 2006), pp. 655-672 (Bb) **for Written Assignment #4.**

WEEK TEN (3/26 and 3/28): Southwest Borderlands and American West

Read: William S. Kiser, "Greater Reconstruction in Historiographical Perspective," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (July 2023), pp. 109-113 (Bb) **for Written Assignment #5.**

WEEK ELEVEN (4/2 and 4/4): Writing Tips

Read (4/2): Storey, "Writing Sentences in History," pp. 110-117 (Bb).

Read (4/4): Storey, "Choosing Precise Words," pp. 118-129 (Bb).

WEEK TWELVE: Historiographical Essay draft

Note: No class meetings on Tues (4/9) and Thurs (4/11)

Historiographical Essay draft is due Thursday, April 11 (by Midnight) via Turnitin in Bb

Last day to drop with an automatic grade of "W" (Saturday, April 13)

WEEK THIRTEEN: Native American History

Read (4/16): "Chapter 1: Indigenous Borderlands: State of the Field and Prospects," in Joaquín Rivaya-Martínez, *Indigenous Borderlands: Native Agency, Resilience, and Power in the Americas*, pp. 15-34 (Bb) **for Written Assignment #6.**

Note: No class meeting on Thurs (4/18)

WEEK FOURTEEN: Native American History; Genocide

Annual Holocaust Memorial Lecture (4/23): Class meeting in CAB Vista Room 402

Guest Speaker (4/25): Dr. Joaquín Rivaya Martínez in our regular classroom and/or via Zoom

Analytical Paper (Rivaya Martínez, Indigenous Borderlands) is due Friday, April 26 (by Midnight) via Turnitin in Bb

WEEK FIFTEEN: Historiographical Essay Final

April 30, Tuesday, Study Day, No Classes

WEEK SIXTEEN: Historiographical Essay Final

Historiographical Essay Final is due **Tuesday, May 7 (by Midnight) via Turnitin in Bb**

May 13, Monday, All grades due by noon

May 16, Thursday, Grades available in JagWire

Instructor: *Dr. Francis X. Galán*

Date: *January 8, 2024*