

HIST 3301 Reading & Writing Like a Historian CRN 23441 Sec 001 Classroom Hall 303 Spring 2024

Instructor: Dr. Sandra E. Lara

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<u>Contact information</u>: Office: CAB 347G; Telephone: (210) 784-2809 <u>Office hours</u>: Monday/Wednesday 11-12:30 PM & Tuesday 11-12:30 P.M. Other times are available by appointment.

Course description: This course provides students with an overview of the paradigms and approaches that guide research and writing about the historical past. The goal is for students to develop critical thinking skills and understand how historians approach the profession, both intellectually (what is "history" and why do we study it) as well as practically (reading and writing skills, primary and secondary sources, working with historical evidence, etc).

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1. Understand the styles of writing within the historical profession;
- 2. Be able to write Chicago Style bibliographic citations;
- 3. Identify the types and elements of historical writing;
- 4. Analyze the way historians write; and
- 5. Write a book review and short research paper employing techniques learned in the class.

Required Textbooks:

Benjamin, Jules R. A Student's Guide to History. 14th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2019.
Farge, *The Allure of the Archives*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013.
*There will be other reading assignments throughout the semester given to you either through Backboard or in-class photocopies.

Course requirements:

Field Trip 15% Attendance 10% Weekly Assignments and Discussion15% Annotated Bibliography 10% Book Review 20% Research Paper & Presentation 30% Grade Scale: A (90%-up); B (80-89%); C (70-79%); D (60-69%); F (0-59%)

Assignments:

ATTENDANCE POLICY (10%):

Students are expected to attend meetings each week (see Course Calendar below, 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. Two unexcused absences from class meetings may result in a drop of one letter grade, and so forth from your overall final grade for the course, or an "F" for more than four unexcused absences.

Blackboard: This course has a Blackboard site. The syllabus, additional reading assignments, and study guides will be posted there, as well as announcements and grades throughout the semester. I do not post lecture notes online—you must attend class and take your own notes. If you are absent, you will need to get lecture notes from someone else in the course.

The syllabus is subject to change, and I will let you know in advance of any changes that need to be made during the semester. Given the situation with Covid-19, we will be flexible in order to best respond to any situation that may arise from circumstances of the pandemic.

Laptop computers may only be used during class time to take lecture notes. Any other purpose is not allowed.

FIELD TRIP (15%) We will have two field trips:UTSA Special Collections Archives (TBA, Week 9) and McNay Museum of Art (2/4). Students will use these trips to deepen their understanding of the field of public history and gain experience working with primary sources.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS (15%):

Students will be asked to submit low-stakes written assignments via Blackboard (Bb) based off the assigned readings, such as discussion boards, films, primary and secondary source analysis, etc. 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. Any assignment submitted after the due date will lose ten (10) points per day for every day it is late.

BOOK REVIEW (20%):

I will provide you with a Guide (& Rubric) to Writing the Book Review. The format for the book review will be three-pages in length (or around 750 words), typed, double-spaced, and 12-point font (Times New Roman). You will write your review on *The Allure of the Archives*. Your book review is to be submitted through Turnitin in Blackboard (Bb), which checks for plagiarism (see Academic Misconduct Policy below). The Due Date for the Book Review is Sunday, 3/3 at midnight.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (10%):

The annotated bibliography will be due on the date listed in the Course Calendar. You will choose one topic on a style or genre of historical writing that we will discuss this semester and include at least four secondary sources (books/articles) and two primary sources, and briefly discuss under each source how the book or article fits into your topic or that particular style of historical writing. The Due Date for your annotated bibliography is Sunday, 3/31 at midnight.

RESEARCH (30%):

I will provide you with a Guide to Writing the Historiograhical Essay. The format will be five-eight pages in length (or around 2,000 words), typed, double-spaced, and 12-point font (Times New Roman). Your essay is to be submitted through Turnitin in Blackboard, which checks for plagiarism (see Academic Misconduct Policy below). The Due Date is Sunday, May 5 at midnight.

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 $\mathbf{\hat{p}}$ or 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.

All student papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software.

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.

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 willbe 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 genderbased 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 an incident 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 thisreporting 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 of students' freedoms and responsibilities 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&MUniversity System, including the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

Students' Rights

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- 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, gender identity, gender expression, 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 staff, and the administration.
- 2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted and compliant with the University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and in the University Catalog.
- 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 a safe environment for learning.
- 5. A student has the responsibility to check their University email for any updates or official University notifications.
- 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 disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 (January 17-19)

W--Class Introduction

Think about a topic for your research paper

Week 2 (January 22-26)	M—Class discussion "The Subject of History and How to Use it"Benjamin, "How Historians Think," pp. 4-7; Benjamin, "Approaches to History," pp. 7-14.
Week 3 (January 29-2/2)	W— Succeeding in Your History Class Benjamin, Ch. 2
	M— Working With Historical Evidence Benjamin, Ch. 3; Handout
	W—A&M Library Presentation
	*Field Trip 2/4 McNay
Week 4 (February 5-February 12)	M—Evaluating and Interpreting Historical Evidence
Week 5 (February 19-23)	Benjamin, Ch. 4
	Oral History: Gwyn Prins (Burke, Ch 6)
	W-Benjamig Ch 5 & Primary Source Workshop
	M—READ Farge 1-60
	New Social History: Race & Women & Gender History

	W—Farge Discussion
Week 6 (February 26-3/1) Evidence	M Farge 61-124
	WFarge Discussion & Writing the book review Benjamin Ch 6 *Book Review Due Sunday at midnight 3/3
Week 7 (March 4-8)	M—Conducting Research in History Benjamin, Ch. 7 W—Discussion
Week 8 (March 11-15)*	Spring Break
Week 9 (March 18-22)	M—Submit topic (and back up topic)
	*Field Trip Special Collections
	WWriting a Research Paper Benjamin, Ch. 8
Week 10 (March 25-29) Week 11 (April 1-5)	M—Documenting Sources
	Benjamin, Ch. 10
	W—Class discussion on Chicago Style citations; workshop to
	work on annotated bibliographies
	*Submit Annotated bibliography 3/31
	M—Environmental History Richard Grove (Burke, Ch 11)
	W—Individual Work
Week 12 (April 8-12)	M—Linguistic Turn, Postmodernism, and New Cultural
	Foucault, 222-230
	W—World Histories: Postcolonial, Comparative, Global
	Said, 260-265; Christian 266-273

	M—Individual Work; Meet with Instructor
	WIndividual Work; Meet with Instructor
Week 14 (April 22-26)	M-Individual Work W—Presentations
_* Week 15 (April 29)	M—Presentations

Research Papers Due May 5