

History 4990  
Dr. Ping  
Credits 03  
10:00-10:50 am, W  
Multipurpose Center 110  
Fall Semester 2011

## SEMINAR IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH

"Research is the process of going up alleys to see if they are blind." --  
**Marston Bates**

"Research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing." -- **Werner  
Von Braun**

If we knew what we were doing it wouldn't be research." -- **Albert Einstein**

History 4990 is a capstone senior thesis course for history majors. The purpose of the course will be to guide seniors through the problems involved in choosing a topic, researching that topic, and writing a senior thesis. The final step of course, will be the actual writing of a well organized, clearly written research paper of approximately 20 to 25 pages. The course is also intended to assist you in acquiring writing and research skills that will serve you well in your future educational development and, at the very least, help you write a project that you can be proud of.

**Prerequisites for History 4990 include senior status and a minimum of 12 upper division credit hours in history. (Please see page 231 of the SUU General Catalog) I will not allow anyone who does not meet these pre-requisites to take this course.**

### **Required Texts:**

Jules R. Benjamin, *A Student's Guide to History* (11<sup>th</sup> Ed, 2009) Bedford/St. Martin. **ISBN-10:** 0312535023

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. University of Chicago Press, 2007. **ISBN-10:** 0226823377

**Please Note: We require the University of Chicago format for this research project. I will not accept any papers written according to any other style. Please do not come to me and ask to submit your paper in MLA, APA or any other format!**

**Recommended Text:**

**William Strunk & E.B.White. *The Elements of Style* (Longman,1999), ISBN-10: 020530902X**

This small book is generally recognized as the most useful guide to proper English writing available! Fans of literature will note that E.B. White is most famous for Charlotte's Web and a host a children's lit classics.

**Class Procedure:**

History 4990 will be organized according to the graduate school model of independent work between each individual student and the professor. We will meet as a class for the first week, but the real essence of the course is your independent research and writing under my direction. It will be your responsibility to meet with me at least once every two weeks; more frequently if necessary, to discuss your research, solve bibliographic or conceptual problems, and generally proceed to complete your senior theses. Since your participation in that process is a vital part of the course, papers the magically appear at the deadline will not be sufficient to earn a passing grade for History 4990!

**Grading:**

History 4990 is an important capstone for the career of history majors here at SUU. Please be aware that the relative infrequency of class meeting does not mean that the faculty of the Department of Social Sciences regards this course as unimportant. Quite the opposite is true. Your grade will be based upon my evaluation of your Senior Project. The actual paper will account for 90% of your grade. History 4990 is also a process of consultation involving the professor and student. I will reserve 10% of your grade to reflect my evaluation of your participation in consultations with me. Students who disappear and then turn in a paper at the last moment will not pass History 4990. Students are required to pass History 4990 with a grade of B or better.

### **Class Deadlines:**

**Wednesday August 31:** *Please give me a formal one-page written paper proposal stating your topic and your method of approaching the basic research for the project.*

**Wednesday September 14:** *I will require a formal written bibliography in the Turabian (U. of Chicago) format of course. Your bibliography should contain 20 secondary sources and five primary sources.*

**Friday November 18:** *You will be responsible for turning in a completed first draft of your paper to me. Please turn that into me in hard copy form! I will then meet individually with the class to consider your papers and suggest revisions.*

**Wednesday December 7:** Your senior paper is due. Please turn in your completed senior paper in hard copy form. *Please do not send me email attachments of the paper!* I will not accept any late papers in this class! Students who do not complete the paper by the deadline date will receive a grade of UW for the course.

### **Statement on Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism means that you are passing off someone else's work as your own. You should not submit a paper that someone else wrote for you. You should not buy a paper from a company, download a paper from the Internet, or submit a paper from a fraternity file. If you do any of these things, you are committing the greatest of academic sins, plagiarism. In ancient Rome, *plagiarii* were pirates who kidnapped children for ransom; academic plagiarists steal another person's thoughts. I would infinitely prefer to read *your* work. It is far more interesting than anything you might find out there in cyberspace. Please be aware that I will employ *Turnitin* to check for possible cases of plagiarism.

### **ADA DISCLAIMER:**

**Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations or auxiliary aids will need to contact the Southern Utah University Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (SDD), in Room 206F of the Sharwan**

**Smith Center or phone (435) 865-8022. SDD determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

**Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.**

**Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.**