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# INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL STUDIES

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HIS 1101 – 001  
Dr. Camden Burd



 EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Fall 2021

History 1101-001

**Class Time:** Tuesdays, 9:30-10:20am

**Class Location:** Coleman 2741

**Instructor:** Dr. Camden Burd

**Contact:** crburd@eiu.edu

**Office & Office Hours:** My office is Coleman Hall 2532. I will offer open office times designated on Tuesdays from 11:00am-12:00pm, Wednesdays from 9:00am-11:00am, and Thursday from 10:00am-11:00am. I am willing to meet virtually via Zoom as well. Please email me to establish a virtual meeting or if you are having difficulty attending the office hours.

**Email Response Policy:** I will try to answer emails as quickly as possible. That being said, I cannot get to every message right away. Therefore, I will commit to responding to any email within 24 hours.

### **COVID-19: Rules and Expectations**

The University is asking all of us to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. EIU's policy is intended to protect all of us on campus, as well as the community, your roommates, and loved ones at home. EIU's COVID-19 campus practices include face coverings, when and where required, avoiding campus if sick, sanitizing surfaces, social distancing, and hand washing, all of which are based on the best available public health guidance. Everyone in the campus community is responsible for following practices that reduce risk.

- All students, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear face coverings during class. Students may sit in any classroom seat where they are most comfortable. All reasonable efforts will be made to provide modifications to classroom seating arrangements if needed; however, this may not be possible in all situations.
- Students should not attend class if they are ill and should consult the student health clinic if they have any COVID-19-like symptoms. Accommodations for instruction and make-up work will be made for students with documented medical absences according to IGP #43: <https://castle.eiu.edu/auditing/043.php>
- If you have a health condition that may require a potential classroom accommodation or variation from current EIU COVID-19 policy, please contact Student Disability Services ([studentdisability@eiu.edu](mailto:studentdisability@eiu.edu) or 581-6583) to determine what options may be available based on current CDC guidance.
- If you are unwilling to follow EIU's COVID-19 guidelines, you will be asked to leave class or office hours as compliance with public health guidance is essential.
- To view the latest EIU COVID-19 related information and any policy updates, please visit <https://www.eiu.edu/covid/>.

**\*\*The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus\*\***

### **Course Overview**

What do historians do? In this course students will learn about what makes history a “discipline” of study by exploring the various fields, methods, and skills of historical study. Students will also explore how historians use their unique skills in a range of professions. Finally, students will become acquainted with doing history at EIU by learning about campus resources for historians.

## Required Texts

- Mary Lynn Rampollo, *A Pocket Guide to Writing About History*, 16th ed. (2012)

## Course Objectives

- Discover and describe the fields, methods, and skills that characterize the discipline of history as the study of human cultures over time.
- Understand and begin to apply the transferrable skills you will be developing in your studies. These skills are critical thinking, writing, quantitative reasoning, visual literacy, public speaking and presenting, research and citation management, and digital database use.
- Identify and use the tools necessary for the study history at EIU, particularly library resources.
- Discover professions in history and related careers.

## Assignments

**Weekly Assignments (130 points):** There will be weekly assignments. These will correlate with the content of the weekly readings or coincide with the theme of the particular class session.

**Dive Into History Assignment (130 points):** For this assignment, you will identify a field of history, research 5 secondary sources, and write a short paper about the scholarship in the field based on those 5 sources. More information for this assignment will be available later in the semester.

**Reflection Essay (70 points):** At the end of the semester you will be provided a prompt to reflect on the entirety of the course and your views of on the field of history. More information for this assignment will be available later in the semester.

**Participation and Attendance (70 points):** Because this class is a mixture of lecture, discussion, and in-class exercises, students must come ready to participate. Please come prepared to discuss assigned readings and share your insights, questions, and thoughts about them. Discussion is not optional in this course—it is required. You have important insights and opinions and the entire class benefits from hearing them.

## Grading

A = 400 – 360 points

B = 359 – 320 points

C = 319 – 280 points

D = 279 – 240 points

F = Below 240

## Late Work and Missed Assignments

Due dates for writing responses, quizzes, and other assignments will be clearly marked in D2L and the syllabus. Exam dates and assignment deadlines are made clear at the beginning of the course which means there are few reasonable excuses for missing them. That being said, I want you to succeed in this course. If, for whatever reason, you miss an assignment or exam please reach out to me. I encourage you to practice safety and healthy choices rather than putting yourself and others at risk.

## Technical Requirements and Skills

During this class you will be expected to use several digital and technical tools to access learning materials and complete assignments. You should feel comfortable in the following tasks:

- Using the learning management system
- Using email with attachments
- Creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats
- Copying and pasting

### **Technical Support**

If you need assistance with D2L, call D2L Support toll free at 1-877-325-7778. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Email and Chat options are also available on the “My Home” page after logging into D2L. Other D2L resources including a D2L Orientation course for students are available in “My Home” page. If you are experiencing less than optimal D2L Brightspace performance, review the D2L Brightspace Performance Checklist to assess the issue.

For technical questions regarding other software, hardware, network issues, EIU NetID/password, or Panthermail, contact the ITS Helpdesk at 217-381-4357 during regular business hours or submit a help ticket at <https://techsupport.eiu.edu/>. If you have a question regarding course content, feel free to contact me.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU’s Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

### **Academic Services Support**

Booth Library offers a variety of access to resources including articles, encyclopedias, books, videos, and more. You can access those materials on their website or by using the “Booth Library Services” widget on the course homepage.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1210, email [studentdisability@eiu.edu](mailto:studentdisability@eiu.edu), or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

### **Student Success Center**

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call (217) 581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 1301.

### **Discussion Etiquette**

Eastern Illinois University (EIU) is committed to open, frank, and insightful dialogue in all of its courses. Diversity has many manifestations, including diversity of thought, opinion, and values. We

encourage all learners to be respectful of that diversity and to refrain from inappropriate commentary. Should such inappropriate comments occur, the instructor will intervene.

### Course Schedule

#### **August 24 – Introduction**

#### **August 31 – Why Study History?**

**Read:** Peter Stearns, “Why Study History” (1998), American Historical Association, accessed August 6, 2019, [https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/historical-archives/why-study-history-\(1998\)](https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/historical-archives/why-study-history-(1998)).

#### **September 7 – What is a Historian?**

**Read:** Sarah Maza, “Introduction,” in *Thinking About History* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017), 1–9.

#### **September 14 – History vs. The Past**

**Read:** John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), Chapter 1.

#### **September 21 – Fields of History**

**Read:** L. J. Jordanova, *History in Practice* (London: Arnold, 2000) Chapter 2.

**Review:** American Historical Association Affiliated Societies:

<https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/affiliated-societies>

#### **September 28 – Planning for a History Major**

**Guest Lecture:** Dr. Brian Mann

#### **October 5 – Historians at Work: Booth Library**

**Guest Lecture:** Andy Cougill

#### **October 12 – Historians at Work: The Archives**

**Guest Lecture:** Brad Tolppanen

#### **October 19 – Skills of a Historian: Evaluating Secondary Sources**

**Read:** *Reading, Writing, and Researching for History: A Guide for College Students* (Brunswick, ME: Bowdoin College, 2004) <https://courses.bowdoin.edu/writing-guides/reading/how-to-read-a-secondary-source/>

#### **October 26 – Skills of a Historian: Skills of a Historian: Interpreting Primary Sources**

**Read:** *Reading, Writing, and Researching for History: A Guide for College Students* (Brunswick, ME: Bowdoin College, 2004) <https://courses.bowdoin.edu/writing-guides/reading/how-to-read-a-primary-source/>

#### **November 2 – Skills of a Historian: Citations and the Historian’s Roadmap**

**Read:** Mary Lynn Rampollo, Chapter 3, *A Pocket Guide to Writing About History*, 16th ed. (2012)

#### **November 9 – Skills of a Historian: Tracking Your Ideas & Evidence**

**Read:** Mary Lynn Rampollo, Chapter 4 & Chapter 7, *A Pocket Guide to Writing About History*, 16th ed. (2012)

**November 16 – Historians and Audiences**

**Read:** Liz Covart, “Podcasting History in Public,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, accessed July 9, 2021, <https://blog.oieahc.wm.edu/podcasting-history-in-public/>

**Listen:** Any episode of Ben Franklin’s World, <https://benfranklinworld.com/>

**November 23 – NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**November 30 – Public History**

**Read:** “About the Field,” National Council on Public History, accessed July 9, 2021, <https://ncph.org/what-is-public-history/about-the-field/>

**December 7 – Careers for Historians**

**Read:** Loren Collins, “Talking to Employers about Your Degree: The History Discipline Core on the Job Market,” American Historical Association, accessed July 6, 2021, <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/why-study-history/careers-for-history-majors/talking-to-employers-about-your-degree>

**Read:** Sarah Olzawski, “Taking Charge of Your Education: The History Discipline Core During College,” American Historical Association, accessed July 6, 2021, <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/why-study-history/careers-for-history-majors/taking-charge-of-your-education>

**December 15: FINAL REFLECTION DUE BY 10:00am**