

HIST 2500: Historical Methods Dr. Kathryn W. Kemp Fall 2011

August 2011

Welcome to HIST2500, Historical Methods.

This is the first step in the preparation of a professional historian. It will introduce to you the types of work they do and the tools they use. Because examples are needed to demonstrate the abstract methodology, you will also review or learn for the first time a wide assortment of short history topics, mostly drawn from U.S. history. Some emphasis will be placed on writing, but your large project, as you may see in the syllabus proper, will be an annotated bibliography rather than a research paper. If you are enrolled in another course that requires a research paper, you may be pleased to find that this assignment can overlap your other research project. It is my hope that every successful student of this course will go onward with a useful toolkit for doing history. We may occasionally touch on the history and philosophy of the profession, but only lightly; these are topics for another course essential in the making of a historian, that is, historiography. Our course is about practice; historiography is about theory.

The attached work schedule will help you organize your class preparation. I will also put due dates in the calendar that accompanies GeorgiaView, where you will turn in your weekly homework and other assignments.

If you want help, please do not hesitate to contact me.. Please remember that I am as interested in your success as you are.

Best,



Dr. Kemp

HIST 2500: Historical Methods Dr. Kathryn W. Kemp Fall 2011

HIST2500 Schedule

Week 1

1.1 Tuesday: **Orientation**

1.2 Thursday: **WB1-Uses of History**

Week 2

2.1 Tuesday: **WB 2-The Nature of History...:11**

2.2 Thursday: **AFTER/FACT 12 Dust Bowl Odyssey 284**

Who were the millions who flooded into California during the Depression? The Census makes the invisible more visible.

Week 3

3.1 Tuesday: **WB312-Writing the ... Paper 205**

3.2 Thursday: **Using Word**

Week 4

5.1 **No classes**

5.2 Thursday: **WB6-Libraries: ... 77**

[meet in library for research exercises]

Week 5

5.1 Tuesday: **WB7-Reading History 105**

5.2 Thursday **AFTER/FACT 2: Serving Time in Virginia. 31**

Week 6

6.1 Tuesday: **Review**

6.2 Thursday: **EXAM**

Week 7

7.1 Tuesday: **WB 3-Continuity & Change 23**

7.2 Thursday: **AFTER/FACT 14 From Rosie to Lucy 339**

If the media of the 1950s brainwashed women to be contented housewives and mothers, how did so many women of the 1960s develop a feminist consciousness?

Week 8

8.1 Tuesday: **WB 4-Multiple Causality...39**

8.2 Thursday: **AFTER/FACT 13 The Decision to Drop the Bomb 310**

Pres. Harry Truman claimed he ordered the atom bomb be dropped to end the war with Japan quickly. Many historians wonder if that is the whole story.

[also] **AFTER/FACT Past and Present: Truckstop Atomic Science 337**

"Recently... a detailed reconstruction of the [atomic] bomb's inner workings has emerged -- written not by a physicist, engineer, or historian, or even by a college graduate."

Week 9

9.1 Tuesday: **WB 5-...: Context 59**

9.2 Thursday: **AFTER/FACT 3 The Visible and Invisible Worlds of Salem 52**

What sparked the witchcraft hysteria of 1692? Historians studying the psychological and social contexts of this tragic incident have turned up unexpected answers. **Week 10**

10.1 Tuesday: **WB 9-Evidence 1393**

10.2 Tuesday: **AFTER/FACT 11 Sacco and Vanzetti 256**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts "demands no victims," insisted the court -- or did it when it executed Sacco and Vanzetti?

Week 11

11.1 Tuesday: **Review**

11.2 Thursday: **EXAM**

Week 12

12.1 Tuesday: **WB10-Oral Hist. & Statistics 165**

12.2 Tuesday: **AFTER/FACT 8 The View from the Bottom Rail 170**

How can we know anything about newly freed slaves who left behind few written words? Oral evidence provides one answer.

Week 13

13.1 Tuesday: **WB11 Interpretation 181**

13.2 Thursday: **AFTER/FACT 4 Declaring Independence 75**

Do actions speak louder than words? When analyzing a document like the Declaration of Independence, historian sometimes heed the old proverb, "Watch what I do, not what I say."

Week 15

15.1 Tuesday: **AFTER/FACT 17 Where**

Trouble Comes-- 420 & read

workbook **WB 8 "History on Film;"**

skip the exercises

"In filmmaking where the director places the camera determines point of view -- and how the story is told. But the story as told at Son My, without the cameras rolling, upended a generation of films about Vietnam."

15.2 Thursday **No classes**

Week 15

15.1 Tuesday: **AFTER/FACT 6 Jackson's**

Frontier -- and Turner's 124

"The theories we use to determine the questions we ask, whether we are looking at the closing of one frontier or the opening of many others."

15.2 Thursday: **Review for Final²**

¹ Two Exams = **40% of your grade** (20% each)

² Final=**30% of your grade**

Research Assignment: Annotated Bibliography -- 20% of grade

Your research and writing assignment for this course will be to prepare an annotated bibliography of **at least** 12 items, all in correct Turabian (Chicago Book of Style) format. These items will be books, scholarly journal articles, reliable websites, and archival collections (if available). Only three of your entries may be from websites (complete web versions of published primary material excepted.)

An annotated bibliography looks like a standard bibliography but has a paragraph of comment following each entry. Like this:

Davidson, James West and Mark Hamilton Lytle. *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection*, sixth edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010.

This book of readings has been used in various types of history courses for a quarter of a century. It introduces various aspects of American history and at the same time demonstrates the methods of professional historians.

It's not necessary to read the entire book in order to write the annotation. This note was composed from information found on the back of the book and in one review. However, it is important that these annotations be **written in your own words** and should not contain any unmarked quotations. The finished products will be submitted to turnitin.com© for verification.

The bibliography should cover a topic that would be suitable for a research paper. If you are working on the research paper for another class you may use that topic for this assignment.

The assignment will require that you turn in your topic choice and two sample annotations (one book and one of another type of source), and the finished bibliography via GeorgiaVIEW. that is, there will be two GaVIEW submissions for this assignment.

Assessments and Discussions

GeorgiaVIEW will also contain assessments that will – to the extent possible – replicate the exercises in the *Methods and Skills* workbook. After you complete the exercises in the book, enter your results in GeorgiaVIEW for grading. There may be an occasional exercise or assessment that will be done on paper instead of through GaVIEW. **[5% of grade]**

Discussions of *After the Fact* chapters may take place in class, or in online discussion boards, as convenient. **[5% of grade]**

Expectations:

Arrive on time

Silence and put away cell phones

Do not eat in class; drinks are allowed, but you are responsible for any messes that are made.

Avoid private conversations while the class is in session.

No walking in and out. Unless an unavoidable emergency develops, do not leave class while it is in progress.

Important The rest of your syllabus is on the website under “Part 1.”