

# HISTORY 300: Archival Research and Writing

UW-Stevens Point

Fall 2023

Professor Brett Barker, Ph.D.

MW 2:00-3:15 PM

Class 80189 SEC 01

CCC 226

## Contact Information:

E-mail: [bbarker@uwsp.edu](mailto:bbarker@uwsp.edu)

Office: 477B CCC (Phone: 715.346.4478)

Office Hours: Mon. 11-12 and by appointment (in person or via Zoom)

## Course Objectives:

The course catalog describes this course as an “introduction to professional methods for studying the past, including archival research, critical evaluation of historiography, interpretation of primary sources, and written and oral communication.” In practice, this means that you will be an active historical researcher and writer this semester, focusing on a project that involves analyzing primary sources and places your topic within its proper historiographical context. In the end, you will be actively engaged in “doing history” this semester.

## Attendance:

**You must attend class.** There are topics and activities that will occur in this class that cannot be completed and learned in any other way. **Please arrive on time and turn off your cell phone and computers. Texting is not allowed and you should not be using your laptop or other devices while we are having discussions and other group activities.** Repeated violation of this rule will result in a significant lowering of your class citizenship grade (see below). You are expected to be in class every meeting. Contacting the professor and informing him that you will not be in class does not excuse you from class.

## Grading Scale:

	93-100	A	90-92	A-	
87-89	B+	83-86	B	80-82	B-
77-79	C+	73-76	C	70-72	C-
67-69	D+	60-66	D	0-59	F

## Required Texts:

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. ISBN: 978-0-226-43057-7. Available for purchase at the bookstore or online.

Other excerpts from texts will be on Canvas.

## **Class Calendar:**

### **Week 1: Introduction**

Sept. 6: Introduction to Course

### **Week 2: What is History?**

Sept. 11: Davidson and Lytle, "The Strange Death of Silas Deane" (Canvas)

Sept. 13: Meet with Archivist Kyle Neill in **TNR 110**

### **Week 3: What is Historical Research?**

Sept. 18: Turabian, Chs. 1-2

**\*\*\* Research Abstract Due in Canvas by 11:59 PM on Sept. 18\*\*\***

Sept. 20: Brundage, Ch. 1 (Canvas)

### **Week 4: Finding Sources**

Sept. 25: Turabian, Ch. 3

Sept. 27: Meet with Archivist Kyle Neill in **TNR 110**

### **Week 5: Engaging with Sources**

Oct. 2: Reading on Annotated Bibliographies (Canvas) AND

<https://libguides.csun.edu/hist301/annbib>

<https://libguides.cmich.edu/c.php?g=104029&p=3894444>

Oct. 4: Turabian, Ch. 4

### **Week 6: The Annotated Bibliography**

Oct. 9: Brundage, Ch. 4 (Canvas)

Reports to Class on Projects

Oct. 11: Turabian, Ch. 5

Individual Conferences

**\*\*\* Annotated Bibliography due in Canvas by 11:59 PM on Oct. 11\*\*\***

### **Week 7: The Historiographic Essay and Research Updates**

Oct. 16: Brundage, Ch. 6 (Canvas)

Reports to Class on Projects

Oct. 18: Individual Conferences

### **Week 8: Creating a Draft**

Oct. 23: Turabian, Ch. 6

Oct. 25: Turabian, Ch. 7

**\*\*\* Historiography Paper due in Canvas by 11:59 PM on Oct. 25\*\*\***

### **Week 9: Individual Conferences and Time to Work**

Oct. 30: No Class

Nov. 1: Individual Conferences

**Week 10: Individual Conferences and Time to Work**

Nov. 6-8: Individual Conferences

**Week 11: First Complete Draft and Preparing for the Peer Review**

Nov. 13: Class Discussion on What a Peer Review Is; Draft Help

Nov. 15: No Class; Prof. Barker available in office

**\*\*\* First Complete Draft due by 11:59 PM on Nov. 15\*\*\***

**Week 12: Peer Review; Revising Your Draft reading**

**\*\*\* Peer Review due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Nov. 19\*\*\***

Nov. 20: In-Class Peer Reviews

Nov. 22: Turabian, Chs. 9 and 12

No Class – Happy Thanksgiving

**Week 13: Revising and Preparing to Present**

Nov. 27: Turabian, Chs. 10 and 11

Discussion of Turabian Chs. 9-12

Nov. 29: Turabian, Ch. 13

**Week 14: Dec. 4 and Dec. 6: *Presentations***

**Week 15: Dec. 11 and Dec. 13: *Presentations continued***

**\*\*\*Final Research Paper due in Canvas on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 11:59 PM\*\*\***

**Grading:** Course grades will be based on the following:

Attendance and participation in class; required individual conferences: 15%

Research paper abstract (Sept. 18): 5%

Annotated Bibliography (Oct. 11): 10%

Historiography paper (Oct. 25): 15%

First Draft of paper (Nov. 15): 15%

Peer Review (Nov. 20): 10%

Presentation of Research (Dec. 4-6): 10%

Final Draft of Paper (Dec. 20): 20%

**Two Important Notes about the Course:**

1. Assignments are due on the dates specified, unless you make prior arrangement with the instructor. Late work will be penalized.

2. Academic Honesty and Classroom Behavior: This course is part of the UW-Stevens Point academic community, an academic community that is bound together by the traditions and practice of scholarship. Honest intellectual work – on examinations and on written assignments—is essential to the success of this community of scholars. Using classmates’ responses to answer exam questions or disguising words written by others as your own undermines the trust and respect on which our course depends. The work in this course is challenging and will demand a good deal of each of you. I have every confidence that each of you can succeed. Doing your own work will enhance your sense of accomplishment when the

semester comes to a close. If instances of alleged academic dishonesty are identified, appropriate actions will be taken in accordance with the institution's policies (UWSP Chapter 14). These actions could include revising the assignment, receiving a lower grade or no credit for the assignment, receiving a lower grade for the entire course, or facing more serious academic consequences.

If you are unsure if something might be considered academic misconduct, you are struggling to understand the content or an assignment, or you have fallen behind for whatever reason, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. By nurturing a community of support, honesty, and respect, we ensure that academic pursuits and your experiences at UW-Stevens Point are both meaningful and genuine. Additionally, the classroom environment is a unique opportunity for students to share ideas, opinions, discuss classroom and course content. As each student is entitled to contribute in class, specific expectations are necessary to ensure a thriving classroom environment. Expectations include: arriving to class on time, being prepared for class, no electronic devices, unless authorized to do so, any loud shouting, excessive side conversations, arriving to class under the influence of any alcohol or drugs, profane language, and verbal or physical threats, intimidation of any kind, or any other behavior that may be disruptive to the professor or other students. If any of this behavior is exhibited, you may be asked to leave the class for the day. Any continued disruptive behavior may result in a referral to the Dean of Students Office.

Finally, the use of any Artificial Intelligence product such as Chat GPT is not allowed in this course. If you use them in any way in HIST 300, you will be engaging in academic misconduct.

**Students with Disabilities:**

The University has a legal responsibility to provide accommodations and program access as mandated by Section 54 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The university's philosophy is to not only provide what is mandated but also convey its genuine concern for one's total well-being. If accommodations are needed, please contact the instructor as well as the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC), located on the Stevens Point campus. Students can also pick up an application for accommodations packet in the Solution Center. DATC contact information:  
(715) 346-3365 (Voice)  
(715) 346-3362 (TDD only)  
or via email at [datctr@uwsp.edu](mailto:datctr@uwsp.edu)

**Office Hours and Appointments:** Every one of you should come visit me during my office hours this semester. My office hours are time set aside for students, and successful students take advantage of them. Whether it's a simple question or a serious problem in the course, you should never hesitate to drop in or make an appointment if my office hours do not fit your schedule.

**Changes to the Syllabus:**

I have tried to make this syllabus as accurate, complete, and helpful as possible. I do not anticipate changing any elements of this course, but I reserve the right to do so. Any changes will be announced in class with as much advance notice as possible.