

History Fundamentals

HIST 99

Spring 2026 Section 01 Hybrid 3 Unit(s) 01/22/2026 to 05/11/2026 Modified 01/16/2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr Katherine Chilton

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Office Hours

Tuesday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, DMH 237B

Drop-in office hours DMH or Zoom

Course Description and Requisites

An introduction to the skills, technology and technique of history reading, writing and research. It is a prerequisite to History 100W. Sophomores and transferring juniors are required to take this course.

Prerequisite: Open to History and Social Science Teacher Preparation majors only; lower or upper division standing.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

This course will consider issues in the political, social, economic, and cultural history of the United States. Students will conduct themselves in a civil and respectful manner. Students should avoid colloquial language, characterizations, remarks, or outright slurs that pertain to groups in the abstract or to their fellow students.

Disability Accommodations

I am committed to creating an inclusive and accessible classroom environment for students of all abilities. Students who may need academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Accessible Education Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance. Knowing that ability status may shift during our time together, please let me know how I can best support your learning needs.

Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own and plagiarism detection tools such as Turnitin will be used to monitor academic honesty. If you are unfamiliar or out of practice with the kind of citations that writers use to credit their sources, you can take the plagiarism tutorial and quiz on Canvas or contact the instructor.

Use of AI

This course is designed to develop the reading, writing, and research skills of a historian, to prepare students to take upper-division and writing-intensive history courses. Therefore, all assignments, analyses, research, and writing submitted in the course should be your own work and created without the use of generative AI, in order to develop these skills. If AI detection tools such as Turnitin suggest that work submitted in the course is AI-generated, students may be required to revise and resubmit their work.

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

PLO 1 Describe and explain how peoples and societies evolved across time and space demonstrating the importance of context (social, political, economic, cultural, environmental, ideological, and technological).

PLO 2 Illustrate the complexity of historical causality and describe past events from multiple perspectives.

PLO 3 Analyze the credibility of historical sources and arguments, revising interpretations as new evidence warrants.

PLO 4 Conceive and carry out historical research, constructing persuasive evidence-based arguments using primary and secondary sources according to recognized standards of the historical discipline.

Course Goals

Course Format

This course has a hybrid synchronous structure, which means that we meet once per week in class or via Zoom and conduct the remainder of the work online through the Canvas LMS and the online textbook Globalyceum. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas to learn of any updates.

Course Materials

Online Textbook

Globalyceum American History

Availability: <https://www.globalyceum.com>

One of the texts for this course is Globalyceum American History. Go to: <https://www.globalyceum.com> register, and subscribe for this course with the following Unique Section Number **RFMUKZ7A** (This number is case sensitive.) Your purchase options are debit/credit, or Paypal, or you can purchase an access code from the bookstore. Please make sure to verify your browser and update it if necessary on the Sign In page. Globalyceum recommends Chrome, and Firefox. If you have any technical problems during the term, please contact: support@globalyceum.com. You can CC me on the email, but your first contact should be with Globalyceum.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Thesis Writing Assignments (15 points):

Every week you will analyze a series of primary documents using the Globalyceum online textbook and use your analysis to write a thesis. Your analysis and thesis will usually be the basis of in class discussion and activities, so these will be due before class every week (Sunday night by 11:55pm)

Writing Assignments (145 points):

In the Writing unit you will write an outline (20 points), a draft essay (50 points) and a revised essay (75 points) for a short paper (3-4 pages).

Group Presentations (50 points):

Each instructor-created group will present sourcing and contextualization information on one of the topics from the "Write a thesis" assignments. Groups will need to present together on the context and background to the topic, evaluate the primary sources, and detail their process and results finding secondary sources that could be used in the short paper on the topic.

Skills Practice Homework (10 points):

Students will practice skills learned during class sessions in weekly homework assignments.

Research Paper (150 points)

Through the semester you will develop a 6-8 page research paper on a topic chosen by your group. You will have group support as you develop a historical question and find and evaluate sources. You will write your own paper, but incorporate feedback from the instructor and others in your group. Each group will meet with the instructor during class time to discuss progress and get feedback on their ideas and writing.

Extra Credit (10 points)

Students may get extra credit for attending any history-related events on or off campus. On campus activities will be added to the course calendar where possible. If you are attending an event, take a selfie or submit your notes to the Extra Credit assignment.

✓ Grading Information

Assignments

This course is based on low-stakes assessment principles. Completing weekly module activities in a timely manner will help to build your skills and comprehension and ensure your success in the course. In an hybrid course, setting a regular work schedule and keeping up with assignments is extremely important.

Grading policy

If you are unable to complete assignments by the due date you may submit within the Unit (typically made up of 3 modules) without explanation or penalty. If you need to submit work after the Unit has closed, you should contact the instructor.

Students will demonstrate their mastery of course learning objectives through the following assessment activities:

Thesis Writing Assignments	150	PLO 1, 2, 3
Short papers	145	PLO 1, 2,
Group presentation	50	PLO 3
Class assignments	140	PLO 1, 2, 3, 4

Research Paper	135	PLO 4
Total	620	

Breakdown

Writing Standard Test

If you have not taken the Writing Skills Test (WST), you will need to take it during this semester. When you have completed this class and passed the WST you will be eligible to sign up for History 100W.

Grade	Range	Notes
A+	97-100%	
A	93-6% =	
A-	90-2%	
B+	87-9%	
B	83-6%	
B-	80-2%	
C+	77-9%	
C	73-6%	
C-	70-2%	
D+	67-9%	
D	63-6%	
D-	60-2%	A student with a semester average below 60% will fail the course.

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

All readings and write a thesis activities are before class time, all class assignments, Unit papers, and research paper components are due by the end of the module (Sundays).

When	Topic	Notes
UNIT ONE: COURSE FUNDAMENTALS January 26	Module 1: Course Fundamentals	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscribe to Globalyceum • Module 1 Career Skills Practice
February 2	Module 2: Major Fundamentals	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 2 Career Skills Practice
UNIT TWO: HISTORICAL SOURCE FUNDAMENTALS February 9	Module 3: Reading Primary Sources	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a thesis: Total War • Module 3 Skills Practice
February 16	Module 4: Primary Source Presentations	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Presentations (in class) • Write a Thesis: Women's Education
February 23	Module 5: Secondary Sources Credibility	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a thesis: Aristocratic Women in Japan and Italy • Reading: Glen Gendzel, "America Enters WWI" (Globalyceum), • Module 5 Skills Practice
March 2	Module 6: Secondary Sources Historiography	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a thesis: Decline of the Mayan Civilization • Module 6 Skills Practice

When	Topic	Notes
UNIT THREE HISTORICAL WRITING FUNDAMENTALS March 9	Module 7: Writing as a Process	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a thesis: John White • Module 7 Skills Practice • Essay Outline
March 16	Module 8: Historical Conventions	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a thesis: Sugar, Slavery, and Abolition • Module 8 Skills Assignment (in-class) • Outline and Essay
March 23	Module 9: Revisions and Editing	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a thesis: Jacob Riis's Photos • Module 9 Skills Practice • Revised Essay
UNIT FOUR: HISTORICAL RESEARCH FUNDAMENTALS April 6	Module 10: Finding Sources	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a thesis: Slaves and Slaveowners • Module 10 Skills Practice
April 13	Module 11: Evaluating Sources	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a thesis: Measuring Alcoholism • Module 11 Skills Practice
April 20	Module 12: Sifting Sources	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a thesis: The Sapoy Rebellion • Module 12 Skills Practice
UNIT FIVE HISTORICAL CAREERS FUNDAMENTALS April 27	Module 13: Mastering Chicago Style	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 13 Career Skills Practice
May 4	Module 14: History Careers	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Project: Thesis and Outline
May 17	RESEARCH PAPER	