

Kennesaw State University
History 2270/01
Introduction to Themes in History
Fall 2009
M/W 9:30-10:45 p.m.
SO 3032

Dr. Jim Piecuch
SO 4092

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Office Hours: M/W 12:30-1:30 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce you to the practice of history as an academic discipline. As a prospective history or history education major, you will learn firsthand how historians work with historical sources and produce scholarship in the form of conference papers, articles, books, and classroom lectures. Our study will focus specifically on the era of the American Revolution. You will read several significant works on the topic to become familiar with major issues of the Revolution and to help you identify an area for your own research. Then, using the skills you have acquired, you will undertake your own research and produce an article-length essay.

Course Goals: The History Department has established a standard list of goals for all students taking History 2270. At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- *articulate what is encompassed by the discipline of history
- *recognize and follow ethical conventions of the discipline
- *understand the concept of a historical argument
- *know how to read articles and monographs in a scholarly way (i.e., identifying the author's argument, types of evidence used, explain how the author relates the work to other works in that area, analyze the organization of the work, and evaluate the author's success in proving the argument
- *write a book review
- *identify different types of sources
- *locate secondary sources and book reviews in both electronic and printed form
- *be familiar with finding aids and other research aids available in a library or archive
- *develop a valid historical argument based on primary sources
- *understand how historians identify and develop research topics, and do this yourself
- *understand how to position your research within a larger framework, and do this yourself
- *apply the conventions of *The Chicago Manual of Style* in your writing
- *become practiced in giving formal presentations
- *understand the difference between academic and public history
- * plan, draft, and complete a formal written work

Expectations: Success in this course requires regular attendance, prompt completion of all reading and written assignments, and active participation in discussions. Because of the importance of the material we cover, excessive absences will affect your grade. Each absence that is not made up will reduce your final average by three points. You can make up absences by submitting written makeup assignments.

Required Texts:

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 5th edition

Alan Gevinson, *History Matters*

Bernard Bailyn, *Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*

Gary Nash, *The Urban Crucible*

John Resch and Walter Sargent, *War & Society in the American Revolution*

Jim Piecuch, *Three Peoples, One King*

Forrest McDonald, *Novus Ordo Seclorum*

Grading: Your grade will be based upon the following factors:

Primary Source Assessment: 10 %

Condensation Exercise: 10%

Book Review: 15%

Discussion and In-class Writing Exercises: 25%

Research Presentation and Paper: 40%

Schedule: (Subject to Change)

Aug. 17: Introduction

Aug. 19: Historians and their Work

Readings: Rampolla, 1-5

Aug. 24: Historical Sources

Readings: Rampolla, 6-24; *History Matters*, 1-23, 27-43, 47-54

Aug. 26: Library Orientation. Meet at Sturgis Library (Subject to Scheduling)

Aug. 31: Discussion, Bailyn

Readings: Bailyn, through chapter 4

Sept. 2: Discussion, Bailyn

Readings, Bailyn, chapters 5-Postscript

Sept. 7: No Class – Labor Day

Sept. 9: Reading and Writing History 1

Readings: Rampolla, 25-38, 43-68

Sept. 14: Reading and Writing History 2
Readings: Handouts
Primary Source Assessment Due

Sept. 16: Discussion, Nash
Readings: Nash, through chapter 4

Sept. 21: Discussion, Nash
Readings: Nash, chapters 5-7

Sept. 23: Writing History (again)
Readings: Rampolla, 69-95

Sept. 28: Discussion, Resch and Sargent
Readings: Resch and Sargent, Preface-chapter 5

Sept. 30: Discussion, Resch and Sargent
Readings: Resch and Sargent, chapters 6-11

Oct. 5: Citing Sources
Readings: Rampolla, 96-133
Condensation Exercise Due

Oct 7: The Writing and Publishing Process

Oct. 12: Discussion, Piecuch
Readings, Piecuch, introduction-chapter 4

Oct. 14: Discussion, Piecuch
Readings, Piecuch, chapter 5-conclusion

Oct. 19: Other Historical Work

Oct. 21: Discussion, McDonald
Readings: McDonald, Preface-chapter 4

Oct. 26: Discussion, McDonald
Readings: McDonald, chapters 5-8

Oct 28: Catch-Up/Planning
Book Reviews Due

Nov. 2: Research Day. No Class Meeting.
Use this time for preliminary research and preparation of your presentation.

Nov. 4: Research Discussion

Make a 5-8 minute presentation on your research topic, preliminary findings, and research plans.

Nov. 9: Conferences

Nov. 11: Conferences

Nov. 16: Conferences

Nov. 18: Presentations

Nov. 23: Presentations

Nov. 25: No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 30: Presentations

Dec. 2: Learning Assessment Discussion

Papers Due

Miscellaneous

Academic Honesty: Please read the section on this subject in your student handbook. I expect all work you turn in to be your own, prepared without outside assistance or collaboration. Plagiarism (presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own) is easier to spot than you may realize. University rules require that I report suspected cases of plagiarism to the administration, and being found guilty of this offense can result in severe penalties. In addition, I will automatically fail you for the course. Cheating on exams in any form, including providing answers or information to other students, will also result in a failing grade.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation so that we can make arrangements to deal with this situation.

Cell Phones and Pagers: Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned off before you enter the classroom. Any student whose phone or pager sounds during class will be asked to leave the room immediately. Repeated violations may result in the offender being banned from the classroom.

Assignments: Writing assignments, lists of study terms, additional readings, etc., will be made available well in advance of the due date. We will discuss all assignments in class. Please see me if you have any problem with the assignments.

Problems and Personal Matters: If you have any difficulty with this course, such as understanding the readings or lectures, speaking in discussion, or personal issues that may affect how well you do in the course. Please see me immediately. The sooner that I know about a problem, the faster we can solve it.