

## HISTORY DEPARTMENT HIST 3000 Assessment – 19 responses Fall 2016

The Department of History's mission is *to train undergraduates to research, analyze, synthesize and communicate accurate conclusions about change over time by using the historical method. At the same time we aim to inculcate cultural literacy and provide the knowledge necessary for informed decision making by citizens of Utah, the United States and the world.*

Please assess how well HIST 3000 has addressed these goals. Be specific in your comments, if possible!

### 1. Research training

- This class was helpful to me in learning how to better research. I used the university archives for the first time and better learned how to find and evaluate primary and secondary sources. I got better at using subscription, databases, and other online research tools and got much better at using Turbrian citations.
- This semester I have learned how to utilize more of the research avenues in the library.
- This course was very good at research training. We spent several days in the archives discussing different sources that may be of use when conducting research.
- This class has given me insight into historiography and bettered my set up.
- This class taught me how to use finding aids to find scholarly sources. It also taught me how to use special collections.
- Before the start of the semester I had very little knowledge how to truly find a primary source that was not directly related to a class. After taking HIST 3000 and seeing how to fully utilize the special archives and other library sources I now believe with time I could build a decent research paper. If I had one thing I would have loved to see more of, is the class being held in the library to allow easy use of library and research material.
- This class has helped me greatly in my overall ability to research. Mostly in the area of narrowing down sources and finding useful info.
- Good, if you didn't know about special collections/library data bases 3000 shows you how to use them.
- This is generally fine, perhaps the demographic will change to freshmen/sophomores later, but many of us juniors and seniors were already rather familiar with historical research.
- I have had research projects in the past, but I really learned how to critically look a specific question in this class, which will help my 4990 paper next year, especially in looking for and at primary sources.
- I felt that HIST 3000 provided a lot of help as far as research training goes. I appreciated the times we met in special collections and felt that I learned a lot about how to do research.
- Learned ways to research and how to read sources for vital information.
- Yes. We had a lot of research training. Very helpful.\
- We went to the special archives a few times and learned how and where to get sources. Maybe we should have analyzed sources together as an example.
- Very well, my understanding of how to research and use sources was improved with finding

sources and revising my research question.

- Overall good. I have learned how to locate both primary and secondary sources and apply them to a larger question.
- I think it was helpful to go into special collections and learn to use their system.

## **2. Analysis of historical materials**

- This class helped me better learn how to evaluate sources. Dr. Bulthuis led many great class discussions that helped me think more and better and differently about the sources and what they actually say and how they can be used in my research. The assignment also gave a lot of practice in doing this.
- We talked about historical debates and being skeptical of works and looking through different lenses.
- This class helped me to analyze historical materials. We spent a fair amount of time on source analysis. We also read a historiography that was useful in evaluating sources.
- This class did well in helping me understand my sources.
- Through this class I learned to look at sources critically and research the authors and why they made the source.
- This class taught me how to be able to critically analyze primary sources and combining them to be able to get a picture of the past. It also has allowed me to be able to think of ways to use sources maybe not for their original purpose. Like using a letter of a farmer who was talking about grain production and tying that in to the food propagandas of price rising of food in time.
- Able to review and research materials with better understanding and with greater speed.
- Decent, don't remember discussing how to analyze sources too much.
- This is where the small class size paid large dividends. The small group workshops couples with Dr. Bulthuis' commitment to one on one teaching and taking time after class etc. is the keystone to progress.
- Dr. Bulthuis does a good job at helping students look at sources, pull out material that will help with our thesis and how to source it properly.
- I liked how we had a class discussions on what to do with your primary sources and how to analyze and challenge them.
- Learned to question sources and find bias.
- We read Parish's historiography of slavery which was helpful. I better understood the ways and differences of history. We discussed analyzing sources but not a lot.
- I wish we had spent more time actually working with our sources, but we did spend a bit of time working on analysis.
- Well/Good. I feel that I have been able to have a critical eye of sources, both primary and secondary.
- I only had this background because this was the second time I took it. I think that it should still be included but with less detail.
- Taught to look at materials with questions.

## **3. Synthesis of historical materials**

- Synthesizing what the sources say into organized conclusions is probably the most difficult part

of doing history for me. Of the areas of the history department mission I would say this is where I've struggled the most since a lot of the synthesizing has to be done outside of class in your own research and writing, the class didn't help as much in the area.

- We talked about historiographies and using sources to come to conclusions.
- The historiography we read was also useful in learning how to synthesizing historical materials. It was a good example of properly synthesizing sources.
- Stark and White and the Parish paper review days helped me find problems in my writing.
- I heard how to better use primary sources to combine multiple views to come to a better understanding of the history and not just take one view point.
- Tying all my resources together is always the problem for me. One thing that has helped me this semester is when we learned how to look for the so what factor in a material. I think this will allow me to get a conclusion as well.
- I am now better able to see a bigger picture when looking through papers and when researching primary documents.
- Good
- Bulthuis' experience and advice here was extremely helpful. Especially with order and interpretation.
- Taking large amounts of new information and narrowing it into a useful structure for a paper understandable to the histories community is taught well in this class.
- The introduction to types of history and approaches was good to give another way to interpret sources.
- We read in Turbian a lot which discussed about research papers and how to convey a message.
- By writing our final research proposal I feel like my ability to synthesis sources has been improved.
- This could use some more improvement. I wish that I could better combine the material that I have found to make more solid conclusions about the larger questions.
- I agree just to give the student a better idea of what to expect.
- Made me better at seeing how material ties together.

#### **4. Communication of conclusions**

- The conference assignment, our research proposal, and our initial project report all helped with this objective. The class definitely helps with this.
- Writing papers to get access a thesis.
- The course was excellent at teaching us how to communicate conclusions.
- The discussions about Parish was useful, but I personally did not prepare for them as well as I should.
- The class has taught me how to write more fully, edit my work and how to create better and more persuasive arguments. I have started to use this in other classes.
- I have always struggled with concluding my papers. I think I have improved on this throughout the semester. Though I believe through more work and papers I will get down a more suitable way or it will click in place on what I need to do.

- Has helped me to better write and argue ideas in papers and speech.
- Decent, worked on clear concise writing and how to organize an idea.
- Conclusions amongst various threads and biases yes. Perhaps the overarching conclusion is that the world is a darker hue of grey than previously thought.
- I have learned in this class how to state my thesis easy in my paper and provide evidence throughout my work.
- I felt that it would have been helpful to have more instruction on communicating our conclusions. In this class I often felt unclear about what was expected in the assignments until after we'd already turned them in.
- Learned a lot about style and have struggled writing that way.
- We read Turbrian a lot which discussed about research papers and how to convey a message.
- I got better by analyzing and reanalyzing my source material, but wish we had worked more with it.
- Well/Good. I feel I have been educated well enough to accurately and professionally communicate my ideas.
- I feel like this was taught.
- I feel like we could have spent more time in this area and learned how to do a proposal.

## 5. Cultural literacy

- This class is more about doing history than learning history, most of what I gained in cultural literacy was from my research for the class more than the class itself.
- Not sure.
- We did not spend a whole lot of time on cultural literacy. However, I felt as through the professor tried to include it in the lectures whenever possible.
- We really only discussed slavery wand historical theory at the end, so we could have used more discussion of culture.
- I learned how to be able to use sources not thought of to show cultural events and discuss new information out of them.
- This portion of the class allowed me a better way of looking at something from a different perspective. I think I have a good grasp but time will tell and I know by using the ideas and lessons from this class it will click eventually.
- Has helped in my ability to see and understand difference it cultures and how I view them.
- Good.
- I studied the fascists in Europe the whole semester. I learned how to be culturally illiterate arguably.
- I had never looked at gender, ethno histories, etc. prior to this class. I enjoyed it.
- I felt there was good training in cultural literacy, particularly towards the end of the semester.
- I have a long list of historians I have been introduced to that I need to read their works.
- I better understand the historian community and what historians do. I understand the different approaches to history and their pros and cons. We read Parish and discussed the history of

approaches to history.

- We didn't really focus on it, but I learned things incidentally.
- I have learned to be more critical of readings that I am supposed to.
- That would be nice, but I don't think it's all that necessary.
- Focused a lot on the archives that contain local history and historiography on slavery.