History 4990: Senior Capstone Seminar
“Community and Society”
Tuesdays, 4:30-7, Library 405

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Office Hours: M 12:00-1:30 (TSC 309); T/Th 3-4 (History office)

Course Description
HIST 4990 is the capstone experience for history majors, designed for seniors to take after they have gained experience, knowledge, and skills in their other history courses. This course asks you to apply these skills to complete a major research paper as part of the culmination of your degree program. You are expected to demonstrate mastery of primary source research and the employment of secondary sources as you write a 20-page research paper. This course requires a great deal of self-motivation: while I will guide you through the process, you are responsible for choosing a topic; identifying primary sources and researching those sources; locating secondary sources; and determining your argument.

Capstone Theme
The theme for this section of 4990 is “Community and Society.” This is intended to provide you a great deal of flexibility in what you decide to research since the category could reasonably include any topic or theme related to the local community of Cache Valley or beyond. I strongly encourage you to choose a topic that will allow you to make use of sources in local archives, especially USU's Special Collections department and/or the LDS Family History Library in Logan, but you may pursue a project that utilizes digitized source material, such as State Papers Online, Cecil Papers Online, EEBO, or similar.

Learning Objectives
Students succeed in HIST 4990 by demonstrating mastery of specific skills:

**Historical Knowledge**: develop research skills through working in an archive; master the secondary literature related to your topic; demonstrate mastery of Turabian citation style.

**Historical Thinking and Skills**: demonstrate the ability to craft a clear and precise argument; sophisticated analysis of primary sources; appropriate balance between primary and secondary sources; completion of a well-written paper that demonstrates mastery of concepts such as historical context and bias.

**Communication**: write a research-based paper with sufficient evidence and documentation to support your arguments; present your findings in a ten-minute public presentation near the end of the semester.

The rubric explaining how your project is evaluated is attached to this syllabus.
Required Texts


Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Participation</th>
<th>10%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper Stages</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Proposal/Revision (10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outline (5)</td>
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<td>Paper Draft (15)</td>
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<td>Peer Reviews (10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Class Schedule

September 1: Class Introduction and Orientation
*Read this week*: Turabian, Chapter 1; Zemon-Davis, Introduction & Ch. 1

September 8: Fiction in the Archives and Responsible Research
*Read before class*: Zemon-Davis, ENTIRE & Appendix C

September 15: Special Collections Visit. Meet in Special Collections.
*Read before class*: Turabian, Chapters 2 & 3

September 22: Library Project and Discussion of Turabian (Chs. 2-4)
*Read*: Turabian, Chapter 4

September 29: Primary Source Analysis. Bring to class: two primary sources related to your chosen topic.
*Project Proposal Due (in class)*

October 6: Library Instruction Day
Part of this class period will offer you a refresher in how to best utilize library resources for your Capstone project. During the remainder of the class period we will discuss your ideas for research topics. Please write up a
short summary (a paragraph is fine) of two or three ideas and bring the summaries to class.


October 20: Turabian Day: Citation Practice (bring your copy of Turabian to class)
Revised Project Proposal Due (in class)

October 27: Research Day. Meet in our usual classroom at 4:30; after a brief meeting we will work in the Library.
Read: Turabian, Chapter 5
Outline Due (in class)

November 3: Research and Writing Day. Dr. Cogan will be in her office for consultations.
Read: Turabian, Chapters 6 & 7

November 10: Writing Day. Dr. Cogan will be in her office for consultations.
First Draft Due by 5:00 p.m. Deliver printed copy to History office.

November 17: “Workshopping”/ Peer Review of conference papers during class period;
Conference preparations
Read: Turabian, Chapters 9-13 (pp. 100-130)

November 21: SATURDAY CONFERENCE: Presentations (and food!)

November 24: No Class (since we made you work on Saturday)

December 1: Peer Review during class period

December 8: Final Peer Review during class period

December 15: Final Paper due by 4:00 p.m., in hard copy, to Dr. Cogan’s office.

Conference Day Schedule: Saturday, November 21

Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
9:00 – 10:15 Panel I (6 papers)
10:30 – 11:45 Panel II (6 papers)
11:45-12:15 Lunch
12:15 – 2:00 Panel III (6 papers)
2:00 – Closing Reception, Phi Alpha Theta Book Sale
Important University Policies to Know:

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435) 797-2444 voice, (435) 797-0740 TTY, (435) 797-2444 VP, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Anyone who knowingly uses the work of another without attribution will receive an “F” in the course. In every case of academic misconduct I file a report with the Office of Student Conduct, which oversees hearings and sanctions related to Honor Code infractions.

**Honor Code:** As stated in The Student Code, “Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to reinforce the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.” Upon admission to Utah State University, you agreed to abide by this Honor Code by signing the Honor Pledge, which reads: “I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity.” Complete academic honesty is expected in this course. Cheating on exams or plagiarism on written assignments will result in a failing grade and may result in further action according to University policy.

The Instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined in the University’s Student Code:

Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: 1. Cheating: (1) using or attempting to use or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity, including working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done “individually”; (2) depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work; (4) acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission; (5) continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity; (6) submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or (7) engaging in any form of research fraud.

2. Falsification: altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.

3. Plagiarism: representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using the sale of term papers or other academic materials.


**Religious Observance:** It is my policy to make every effort to reasonably and fairly accommodate all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If you have a potential class conflict because of a legitimate religious observance, you must inform me of that conflict no later than the end of the second week of class: **SEPTEMBER 11.**