HIST 4370: Capstone –
Historical Research and Methodology

Fall 2017
TR 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. A225

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Office Hours: MWF 10-10:50 a.m., TR 9:30-11:30 a.m., or by appointment.

Course Description
The objective of this course is to review everything you’ve learned in the past four years, AND to learn everything you didn’t learn from classes you didn’t take. The student will be asked to learn the whole history of Texas, the United States, western civilization, and the world, plus the disciplines of geography, U.S. and comparative political science, macro- and microeconomics, psychology, sociology, and anthropology. And research and writing methods for the humanities and social sciences. And how to teach. Because it will all be on the test, and then you will be asked to teach all of it and you will be on your own. Good luck, bon voyage, no pressure!

Hmm, that sounds unrealistic. Yet it will all be on the test, and you will be asked to teach things far beyond your expertise. So, the real course objectives are for each of you to build on what you know, fill in some of the gaps in your knowledge, gather resources that you can draw upon later, and hone the skills of organizing and analyzing material in ways that will support your teaching. The objective of the capstone class, then, is to help History and Social Studies Secondary Certification majors prepare for the TExES educator certification examinations as well as for the work you will soon be doing building your own classes.

In short, we will be multitasking, blending methods with content. Content will touch on diverse elements of the human experience, from individual actions and objects to broad global patterns and systems. Examples will come from the histories four concentric areas – the state, the nation, the west, and the world. We will familiarize ourselves with this content primarily through active practice of historical and teaching methods, including test-taking strategies, research and resource gathering, primary and secondary source analysis, textbook and teaching resource analysis (print, audio, visual, and a/v), and prepping and presenting lectures, discussions, exams, and assignments.

Grade Scale:
GRADE in %
90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-7 = C
60-69 = D
59 & <= F
Required Materials:

- with Connect access. This is an access code for online materials including a full e-book version of the textbook, a program that guides your reading of the textbook, and access to test-prep practice questions over the material.

Note 1: You may purchase the access code alone if you can bring a laptop to class, but you may not use the book without the access code (because you will not have access to your homework assignments).
Note 2: If you purchase the materials online, Connect access may be sold separately.
Note 3: Purchasing a hard copy of the textbook in is highly recommended because your access to online materials will expire, but if you own a hard copy textbook you will always be able to consult it as you build your own courses throughout your career.
Note 4: for Connect Tech Support:
   Call: (800) 331-5094 or Email/Chat at: <http://mpss.mhhe.com/>
   Hrs: Mon – Thu, 7 a.m. – 3 a.m.; Fri 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m. – 1 a.m.

Other required materials will be distributed to students in class over the course of the semester.

Course Requirements:

Assignments: 60%
This class will have many small weekly assignments, and throughout the semester we will contribute to a thematic wiki study guide. Assignments will be low-stakes – graded essentially on completion, timeliness, and good-faith effort for quality. Put together, each student’s assignments will comprise a collaboratively-created study guide and teaching resource handbook. You are creating this for yourselves, so the better you do on the small assignments, the more prepared you will be to teach and the more you will thank yourselves later. You can think of it this way: the homework for each class meeting is 1.5% of your final grade, and your contributions to the thematic wiki are about 1% of your final grade per week.

Participation: 30%
This class will be run as a workshop – full preparation and participation is necessary in each class meeting for us to evaluate our materials and share our work with each other. We will have several guests from various departments, so we need to be prepared to make the most of their help. Each class meeting is worth 2% of your final grade – no points if you are absent, partial if you are in attendance but not prepared/engaged.

Final Exam: 10%
The final will be a practice TExES exam. A passing grade on this exam is required for the department to clear you to take the real exam.
Course Policies:

Attendance:
See participation grade. Aside from religious holy days, there are no “excused” absences in this course. Exceptions may be made in the case of a family or medical emergency – please consult the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

Late Work:
This course is built as a collaborative effort toward the goal of building a common bank of study and teaching resources. There are many routes to passing an exam, and many ways to teach. Each student has a unique intellectual background and different professional interests and goals, so each will have different assignments and make varied contributions. Your fellow students are counting on your work to reflect an honest effort, and to be on time. Assignments will receive a letter grade deduction for each 12-hours they are late. Assignments not completed by class time may also hurt your ability to participate, and thus hurt your participation grade for that day.

Conduct:
Respectful conduct is expected. This class is collaborative, so positive interpersonal interactions and honest efforts to engage in the in-class work show respect for the work that your classmates are doing to prepare for their own careers. Model the conduct that you hope your students will embody to enable your classes run smoothly.

Academic Integrity:
Academic work is built on trust. Plagiarism (failure to properly cite a source or presenting another individual’s work as your own) and cheating on any assignments (receiving unauthorized aid) will result in the student failing the course and may lead to other disciplinary actions. For clarification on academic misconduct, discuss the issue with the course instructor. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook. You may view the university’s honor code at: http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf

University Policies:
Disabilities Accommodation (OP 10.15): Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office (Room 112 University Center; (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX); or Student.Life@angelo.edu) in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Faculty members are not allowed to provide accommodation for a student’s disability needs without approval from the Office of Student Life.

Absences for Observance of Religious Holy Day (OP 10.19): Students who intend to be absent from class to observe a religious holy day (as defined in ASU OP 10.19) must inform the instructor in writing prior to the absence and make up any scheduled assignments within an appropriate timeframe determined by the professor. While the absence will not be penalized, failure to complete the make-up assignment satisfactorily and within the required timeframe will result in penalties consistent with other absences and assignments.
**Student Learning Objectives:**

1) **Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories).**
   
   Students will augment and review their knowledge of the content and methods of history, geography, political science, economics, sociology, psychology, and anthropology. While it is impossible to do all of this thoroughly in one semester, students will focus on areas that are less familiar to them and those that are most interesting to them, in order to build on their current knowledge.

2) **Developing knowledge and understanding of diverse perspectives, global awareness, or other cultures.**

   Students will gather and analyze thematic material that connects Texas, the United States, Western Civilization, and the World.

3) **Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.**

   Students will practice working through course material in ways they will continue to do as teachers, including textbook analysis, primary source analysis, and preparing and presenting lectures, exams, discussions, and assignments.

4) **Learning how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore a topic in depth.**

   Students will work with a range of print and online materials, to become familiar with resources that they can continue to consult as they study for their certification exam and to build their own classes throughout their professional lives.

**Disclaimer:** By remaining in this class, students agree to abide by the guidelines outlined in this syllabus. The instructor reserves the right to amend the class schedule during the course of the semester to respond to changing needs and circumstances.
Provisional Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1: Aug 29, 31
Introduction, Exam Format

Week 2: Sep 5, 7
Geography

Week 3: Sep 12, 14
U.S. History – Textbook analysis

Week 4: Sep 19, 21
Texas History

Week 5: Sep 26, 28
World History – Ancient, Material objects

Week 6: Oct 3, 5
Political Science, maps

Week 7: Oct 10, 12
World History – Latin America, test taking strategies

Week 8: Oct 17, 19
Economics, quantitative sources

Week 9: Oct 24, 26
World History – Africa, Middle East, print primary sources

Week 10: Oct 31, Nov 2
U.S. History – themes, discussion/presentation strategies

Week 11: Nov 7, 9
World History – Europe, visual sources

Week 12: Nov 14, 16
Behavioral Sciences – multiple perspectives

Week 13: Nov 21
World History – Asia

Week 14: Nov 28, 30
World History – 20th century, a/v sources

Week 15: Dec 5, 7
Thematic wiki recap, whatever needs more time. Final Exam: Dec 12, 8:00-10:00 a.m.