Hist 2372: Historiography and Methods.

Hist 2372, Sec 010
A221
MWF 1:00-1:50pm

Dr. Jason Pierce
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Office A210B
Office Hours: MTWThF: 10:00am-11:00am
Or by appointment

Course Objectives: What is Historiography and Why are You Taking It?
Well, you’re taking it because we required it. So there.

So why did we require it, and what the heck is historiography anyway?

There is a perception among people that History simply is, like gravity or sunshine or the Cowboys barely missing the playoffs. But history is not something that exists outside of the present, and indeed our understanding of history is shaped by the present, present our concerns but also our ability to look back and see what matters. History is, therefore, in a profound sense something that is MADE by the present.

So how do historians, in a sense, make history? How do we reconstruct the past with the materials we have inherited from the past? We will explore this and participate in such creation it during the class, learn about the methods historians employ to reconstruct the past.

Historiography is also the history of history. Where did the discipline of history come from? What are some of the different approaches to history that historians have created over time?

Format
This course will be set up somewhat like a graduate school course in that class time will be primarily used to hold discussions on our readings. The class will be broken into two groups, with roughly half in attendance on Mondays (Group 1), the other half in attendance on Wednesdays (Group 2), and Friday used as research and preparation time.

Group 1: Students whose last name starts with letters A-L
Group 2: Students whose last name starts with letters M-Z
Covid-19 and Face Masks
As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory **Facial Covering Policy** to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

Wellness Check
Students must fill out the wellness check daily. It is available on Ramport or the ASU App. Please take a photo of your daily app as you’ll be asked to display it to enter the buildings.

Provision to move course online. Depending on the situation, Angelo State may be required to move all courses online. The instructor may modify class requirements or format as necessary should this occur.

The course may also go online if the instructor is infected with COVID-19 and isolated or forced to quarantine from having been in proximity with a positive case.

Assignments and Grades
Assignments will be all papers. There are no tests in this class.

**Papers** will be one page summaries (250-500 words) of the week’s readings. Total for these papers is 750 points throughout the semester. Papers will be due in class on the day of the class discussion for those chapters.

**Paper Precis and Bibliography**: Plan and outline for Research Paper
**Research Paper**: You will choose a topic on local history and use the resources in the West Texas Collection and the library to write a research paper of 5-7 pages, double-spaced.

**Participation**: In class discussion will total 50 points. Subjective score, based on professor’s judgement of performance.

Paper 1: Marc Bloch, *The Historian’s Craft*. Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2. (50 points)
Paper 2: Marc Bloch, *The Historians Craft*. Chapters 3, 4, 5. (50 points)
Paper 5: Green and Troup, *Houses of History*, Chapter 3 and 4. (50 points)
Paper 7: Read Green and Troup, *Houses of History*, Chapter 12. (50 points)
Paper Precis and Bibliography (150 points)
Research Paper (200 points)
Participation (50 points)

Grading Scale
A = 700-630
B = 629-560
C = 559-490
D = 489-420 (righteous, Bro!)
F = 419 and below.

**Required Readings**
Marc Bloch, *The Historian’s Craft*.
Any others will be posted to Blackboard as necessary.

**Inclement Weather Policy**
Basically, if the university if closed, we won’t have class.

**Makeup of Exams**
You must come to me within two class days to schedule a makeup exam or you will receive a zero.

**Plagiarism**
Cheating of any sort will not be tolerated, and cheaters will automatically fail this class and be reported to the administration.

**The Learning Environment**
Please be courteous to your classmates and respectful during discussions. Wear your mask and do your part to help us get through this trying time.

**Students with Disabilities**
Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to their implementation. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Instructor reserves the right to change or alter the syllabus as necessary.**
Helpful Links

Advising: [https://www.angelo.edu/dept/advising/](https://www.angelo.edu/dept/advising/) Be sure to set up an advising appointment when advising for Spring begins.

Counseling Services: [https://www.angelo.edu/services/counseling/index.php](https://www.angelo.edu/services/counseling/index.php) Confidential Counseling is provided to all students free of charge.

Student Handbook: [https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/](https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/) Outlines the policies students need to know

Title IX: [https://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/](https://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/) The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

[www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022 michelle.boone@angelo.edu

*Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).*

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix)

Tutoring Center: [https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/academic-tutoring.php](https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/academic-tutoring.php)

Religious Holidays. Students may miss a day of class to observe a religious holiday, provided they inform the instructor in advance that they will be missing class.

Questions?
Please feel free to contact me or stop by during my office hours.
**Tentative Class Schedule.**

**Week 1 (Jan 25-29)**
Introduction to the Class and the Origins of History.

**Week 2 (Feb 1-5)**
Is History an Art or a Science?

**Week 3 (Feb 8-12)**
Water-mageddon

**Week 4 (Feb 15-19)**
Snow-mageddon

**Week 5 (Feb 22-26)**
Reboot and Discuss Mark Bloch’s *The Historian’s Craft*, Chapter 3, 4 and 5.
No Paper on Bloch, second half.

**Week 6 (March 1-5)**
Discuss the Question of Narrative.
Bring paper on Chapter 8 on February 22nd (Group 1) and February 24th (Group 2)

**Week 7**
Read Green and Troup, *Houses of History*, Chapter 2 and 3, the Empiricists and the Marxists.
Bring paper on Houses of History, Chapter 1 and 2 on March 1 (Group 1) and March 3.

**Week 9 (March 8-12): How to use an archive.**
Introduction to primary sources

**Week 9 (March 15-19): Spring Unbreak**
Paper Topic. Bring to class on Monday March 22nd (Group 1) or March 24th for Group 2.

**Week 10 (March 22-26)**
Work on Paper Topic and Bibliography of Sources.

**Week 11 (March 22-26)**
Bring paper to class on Houses of History, Chapters 4 and 5 for March 22nd (Group 1) and March 24th (Group 2).
Week 12 (March 29-April 2nd)
Read Green and Troup, *Houses of History*, Chapters 10 “Gender and History” and 12 “Postcolonial Perspectives.”
Bring paper on *Houses of History*, Chapters 10 and 12 on March 29th (Group 1) and March 31st (Group 2)

Week 13 (April 5-9):
Bring paper on *Houses of History*, Chapter 12 on April 5th (Group 1) and April 7th (Group 2).

Week 14 (April 12-16): Archival Research

Week 15 (April 19-23): Archival Research

Week 16 (April 26-30): Archival Research

Week 17 (May 3-May 7): Archival Research

Week 18 (May 10-14): Research paper due May 14th by 5:00pm on TurnItIn.