

**The Historian's Craft:
Methodology
HIST 2302
MW 11:00 – 12:15
Pafford 204**

Instructor:

Dr. McCullers

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Office Hours: MW 2:30-4:30

Course Overview & Objectives:

This course explores what historians “do” and how and why they do it. This skills development course introduces students to historical research methods and different fields of history. This course also encourages students to think critically about taking control of their education and their lives for success in college and beyond.

This course is required for history majors. In order to graduate with a degree in history, you must earn a C or higher in this class. By the end of this course, students will be able to locate and critically analyze primary and secondary sources, cite sources correctly in Chicago format, ask historical questions and craft historical arguments based on primary sources, and think historically.

Required Texts:

- John Aberth, *The Black Death: The Great Mortality of 1348-1350: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford St. Martins, 2005).
- Ken Bain, *What the Best College Students Do* (Harvard UP, 2012).
- Natalie Z. Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre* (Harvard UP, 1983).
- Carolyn Hamilton, *Terrific Majesty: The Powers of Shaka Zulu and the Limits of Historical Intervention* (Harvard UP, 1998).

Assignments:

There are 3 categories of Assignments in this class: historical research, grammar and style, and taking control of your education. All of these assignments will be compiled into a curated course portfolio at the end of the semester.

Historical Research Assignments: The final product for this course is a term paper based on primary sources about the Black Death in the 14th century. We will complete this paper in stages, which include an outline and annotated bibliography, rough drafts, a formal bibliography, an oral presentation, and the finished product.

Grammar & Style Assignments: This class starts at the basics to develop strong written communication skills. There will be 4 short, in-class grammar and style

quizzes. Additionally, students will learn to properly cite materials using Chicago Style notation through an assignment asking them to correct citations in a paragraph. This assignment can only be counted as either 100% or 0%. It must be redone until completely correct.

Taking Control of Your Education Assignments: There are a variety of assignments focused on improving your time management and study skills, short reflective essays, and professionalization activities.

Formatting: All assignments must be formatted according to the following guidelines. Papers which are not properly formatted will automatically be penalized by one full letter grade.

- Heading at the top left with Student's Name, the date, my name (Dr. McCullers), the course number (HIST 2302), and the assignment.
- A meaningful/correct title.
- One-inch margins
- Double Spacing
- Times New Roman 12-point font
- Last Name & page number in the bottom right footer for assignments over 1 page. Do not put this on the first page.
- Chicago Style footnotes where appropriate
- All assignments must be turned in online and in-class as hard copies, which must be identical.
- Assignments of 2 or more sheets of paper must be stapled. 2 points off unstapled papers. I don't have a stapler. Don't ask.

Spelling and Grammar: ALL WRITING IS FORMAL WRITING. Spelling and grammar always count. Contractions will each result in a one-point deduction from the grade of an assignment.

Please turn in assignments in class unless specifically directed to also turn them in on course den.

Grading:

- I do not discuss grades within **48 hours** of returning assignments
- I **do not change grades** except in cases of a mathematical error – NO EXCEPTIONS
- It is against university policy to discuss grades via email. If you would like to discuss your grades, please come by my office hours
- I do not accept late work without a documented, university approved excuse or prior arrangements. No exceptions.

Grade Distribution:

- Attendance – 3.5%
- Participation – 10%
- Taking Control of Education Assignments – 18.5%
- Research & Writing Assignments – 40.5%
- Final Paper – 12.5%
- Portfolio – 15%

Due Dates & Points:

8/19 – Primary Source Analysis -20 pts	10/21 – Chicago assignment - 70 pts
8/26 – What is Your Why 1 – 50 pts	10/28 – Revised body paras - 100 pts
8/28 – Bain 3&4 – 20 pts	11/4 – Draft conclusion - 20 pts
9/4– Revised Primary Source -20 pts	11/11 – Draft bibliography - 30 pts
9/4 – Time Management - 50 pts	11/13 – Resume – 60 pts
9/11 – Bain 5 & 6 – 20 pts	11/18– Complete paper draft -150 pts
9/16 – Outline & Annotated Bib. - 50 pts	12/2 – What is Your Why 2 – 100 pts
9/18 – Bain 7 & 8 - 20 pts	12/4 – Final Paper - 250 pts
9/25 – Grammar Quiz – 50 pts	12/11 – Portfolio – 300 pts
9/30 – Draft thesis & intro - 100 pts	Participation – 200 pts
10/7 – Draft 3 body paras - 100 pts	Attendance – 70pts
10/9 – Degree Map – 50 pts	
10/14 – Revised thesis & intro -100 pts	TOTAL – 2000 points

Policies:

Attendance: You are permitted 2 unexcused absences. A third unexcused absence will drop your attendance grade to 90%. Each additional unexcused absence will drop your attendance grade by an additional 5%.

Please note: Attendance is not participation. If you are physically in class but mentally absent, your participation grade will reflect that.

Missed & Late Work: You are responsible for all missed work. I do not give out lecture notes. I do not accept late work without a written excuse or prior arrangements.

Make-Up Quizzes & Exams: I only give make-up quizzes and exams for documented excused absences. If you know you are going to be absent for an exam, let me know in advance.

Technology: Do not use your phone in class and only use your computer to take notes. I may not say anything, but I do notice.

Email Policy: University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. **It is your responsibility to check your email. Only email me in Course Den.**

Academic Honesty: All work must abide by the UWG honor code. All work must be completed independently unless otherwise specified and must be original. The UWG Honor Code is in force at all times. Each student is responsible for understanding the nature of, and rules regarding, academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course. **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE**

Accommodations: If you require accommodations, **it is your responsibility to provide me with documentation** from the office of accessibility services. It is **also your responsibility to make arrangements for extra time, alternative testing locations, etc., and to remind me in advance.** I cannot provide accommodations without University documentation.

University Policies: Please see the following link for a complete listing of University policies - [http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common Language for Course Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common%20Language%20for%20Course%20Syllabi.pdf)

Schedule

Week 1:

Wednesday 8/14 – Introduction: History, Historians, Historiography and You

- Discuss what it means to “do history” & what historians actually “do”
- In-Class Survey

Homework:

- Aberth: Preface, Introduction, pp. 11-14, 23-27, 37-40, 67-70, 94-97, 117-121, 139-141, 160-164, 169-171
- Primary Source Assignment, due Monday 8/19

Week 2: Jumping In

Monday 8/19– Thinking about the Black Death & Sources

- Grammar – Parts of Speech
- Discuss Aberth and how to analyze Sources

Homework:

- Bain – Chapters 1 & 2
- Revise Primary Source Analysis & write a 1-2 sentence research question about the Black Death – Due Weds. 9/4

Wednesday 8/21 – Taking Control of Your Education Part 1

- Grammar – Parts of a Sentence, Sentence Construction, Run-ons & Fragments
- Discuss Survey Results
- Discuss Bain, chs. 1&2

Homework:

- What is Your Why 1? – Due Monday 8/26
- Time Management Assignment – Due Weds. 9/4

Week 3:

Monday 8/26 – Thinking about Research and Writing Part 1: Devising a Historical Question

- Grammar – punctuation
- What is a historical Question and how do we write one?
- Thinking about the future – What are you interested in historically and how to make that work for you?

Homework:

- Bain Chs. 3 & 4 & Complete assignment on work-life-school balance & on failure (Due in class Weds 8/28)
- Complete analysis of time management results

Wednesday 8/28 – Taking Control of your education part 2

- Grammar: agreement and tenses
- Learning to Read
- Discuss Bain chs. 3-4 & Assignment

Homework:

- Complete Revised Primary Source Analysis & Historical Question
- Complete Time Management Assignment

Week 4:

Monday 9/2 – Labor Day Holiday – *No Class*****

Wednesday 9/4 –

- Grammar: Contractions
- Discuss Term Paper – Outline & Annotated Bibliography
- Discuss results of time management assignment

Homework:

- Bain chs. 5-6 & complete assignment on messy problems & encouragement (Due Weds 9/11)
- Begin working on annotated bibliography & outline. (Due Monday 9/16)

Week 5:

Monday 9/9 – Finding & Using Primary Sources

- Grammar – Passive Voice
- Library Orientation

Homework:

- Finish Bain chs. 5 & 6; complete assignment
- Continue working on annotated bibliography & outline of term paper (Due Monday 9/16)

Wednesday 9/11 - Taking Control of Your Education Part 3

- Grammar – Recap Passive Voice
- Discuss Bain Chs. 5 & 6
- Answer Questions about outline & annotated bibliography

Homework:

- Complete outline & annotated bibliography
- Bain chs. 7-8 & Assignment on curiosity, education, & hard choices (Due Weds. 9/18)

Week 6:

Monday 9/16 – Thinking about Source-Driven Historical Writing

- Grammar – Thesis statements
- Transforming a Historical Question into a Thesis statement
- Letting sources drive your argument
- Moving from an outline to a paper - Introductions

Homework:

- Complete Bain chs. 7 & 8, complete assignment
- Draft thesis statement & introduction for term paper (Due Mon. 9/30),

Wednesday 9/18 – Taking Control of your education part 4

- Grammar – Slang & Informal Language
- Discuss Bain Chs. 7-8 & Assignment
- Answer questions about thesis statements & introductions

Homework:

- Continue draft thesis statement & introduction (Due. Mon. 9/30)
- Begin *The Return of Martin Guerre*, chs. 1-6 (Due Mon. 9/30)
- Come up with 3 questions for historians (Due Mon. 9/23)

Week 7:

Monday 9/23 – Using Archives

- Grammar – Common Mistakes to Avoid
- Special Collections Orientation

Homework:

- Complete draft thesis statement & introduction (Due. Mon. 9/30)
- Finish *The Return of Martin Guerre*, chs. 1-6 (Due Mon. 9/30)

Wednesday 9/25 – What do historians do, how, and why?

- Grammar – Quiz
- Roundtable with History Faculty

Homework:

- Complete draft of thesis statement and introduction (Due Mon. 9/30)
- Complete *The Return of Martin Guerre*, chs. 1-6 (Due Mon. 9/30)

Week 8:

Monday 9/30 – Source Driven Writing

- Grammar - What makes a Paragraph? Topic, Transition, & Concluding Sentences
- The 5-paragraph essay
- Discuss *The Return of Martin Guerre*, 1-6

Homework:

- Read *The Return of Martin Guerre* chs. 7- Epilogue (Due Mon. 10/7)
- Draft 3 body paragraphs of term paper (Due Mon. 10/7)

Wednesday 10/2– Taking Control of Your Education: Understanding Your Major

- Grammar – Organization & Flow (Thesis, antithesis, synthesis)
- Understanding Your Major & How it Works
- Degree Map
- Answer Questions about body paragraphs

Homework:

- Complete *The Return of Martin Guerre* chs. 7 – Epilogue (Due Mon. 10/7)
- Complete draft of 3 body paragraphs of term paper (Due Mon. 10/7)
- Complete Degree Map (Due Weds. 10/9)

Week 9

Monday 10/7 – Source Driven Writing

- Grammar – Quotations
- Discuss *Martin Guerre*, ch. 7 - Epilogue

Homework:

- Complete Degree Map (Due Weds. 10/9)
- Revise thesis & intro (Due 10/14)

Wednesday 10/9- Taking Control of Education - Senior Seminar

- Grammar – Word Choice
- Guest Speaker – Dr. Schroer

Homework:

- Complete thesis & intro revisions (Due Mon. 10/14)
- Read *Terrific Majesty* Intro & ch. 1 (Due Mon. 10/21)

Week 10:

Monday 10/14 – Chicago Style

- Grammar: Chicago Style
- Intro to Shaka Zulu & Mfecane

Homework:

- Complete Chicago Style assignment (Due Mon. 10/21)
- Read *Terrific Majesty* Intro & ch. 1 (Due Mon. 10/21)
- Read Julian Cobbing, “Mfecane as Alibi”

Wednesday 10/16 – Taking Control of Education - Study Abroad

- Grammar - Voice & Tone
- Guest Speaker – Dr. Lipp & Student

Homework:

- Complete Chicago Style Assignment (Due Monday 10/21)
- Read *Terrific Majesty* Intro & ch. 1
- Read Cobbing, “Mfecane as Alibi”
- Revise body paragraphs (Due Mon. 10/28)

Week 11:

Monday 10/21 – Putting it all Together: Historiography & Representation

- Grammar – Style
- Discuss *Terrific Majesty* & Cobbing

Homework:

- Revise Body Paragraphs (Due Mon. 10/28)
- Read *Terrific Majesty* Ch. 2 (Due Mon. 10/28)

Wednesday 10/23 –Alternative Sources: Photos, Music, Material Culture

- Grammar – Revisiting Paragraphs & Tense
- Alternative Sources: Photos, Music, Material Culture

Homework:

- Revise Body Paragraphs (Due Mon. 10/28)
- Read *Terrific Majesty* Ch. 2 (Due Mon. 10/28)

Week 12:

Monday 10/28 – Representing the Past

- Grammar - Conclusions
- Public History – Guest Speaker Dr. McCleary
- Discuss *Terrific Majesty* ch. 2

Homework:

- Digital History Reading TBD
- Begin drafting term paper conclusion (Due Mon. 11/4)
- Read *Terrific Majesty*, ch. 3 (Due Mon. 11/4)

Wednesday 10/30 – Digital History

- Grammar - Perspective, bias, and position
- Digital History: Exhibits, Databases, Maps, Podcasts

Homework:

- Complete draft term paper conclusion (Due Mon. 11/4)
- Read *Terrific Majesty*, ch. 3 (Due Mon. 11/4)

Week 13:

Monday 11/4 – Instrumental Uses of History

- Grammar – Chicago Style Bibliography
- Discuss *Terrific Majesty* ch. 3

Homework:

- Draft the bibliography for your term paper (Due Mon. 11/11)
- Read *Terrific Majesty* ch. 4 (Due Mon. 11/11)

Wednesday 11/6 – Marketing Yourself

- Guest Speaker – Career Services
- Resume Workshop

Homework:

- Draft the bibliography for your term paper (Due Mon. 11/11)
- Read *Terrific Majesty* ch. 4 (Due Mon. 11/11)
- Complete Resume (Due Weds. 11/13)

Week 14:

Monday 11/11 – Knowledge Production & Power

- Discuss *Terrific Majesty* ch. 4
- Answer Questions about Resumes & Term Papers

Homework:

- Complete Resume (Due Weds. 11/13)
- Read *Terrific Majesty* ch. 5 & 6 (Due Mon. 11/18)
- Begin complete draft of term paper (Due Monday 11/18)

Wednesday 11/13 – Money Matters: Finance for Education & Beyond

- How loans work & personal finance 101

Homework:

- Read *Terrific Majesty* ch. 5 & 6 (Due Mon. 11/18)
- Finish complete draft of term paper (Due Monday 11/18)

Week 15:

Monday 11/18 – The Past in the Present

- Discuss *Terrific Majesty* ch. 5 & 6
- Discuss Term Papers and Portfolios

Homework:

- Begin final draft of term paper (Due Weds. 12/4)
- What is Your Why 2 (Due Mon. 12/2)

Wednesday 11/20 – Managing Stress & Optimizing Wellness

- Identifying & dealing with stress
- Meditation
- Guest Speaker – Counseling Center

Homework:

- Final draft of term paper (Due Weds. 12/4)
- What is Your Why 2 (Due Mon. 12/2)

Week 16:

Monday 12/2 – Final Paper Workshop

- Writing & Editing Workshop
- Answer Questions about Papers & Portfolios

Homework:

- Finish Final Paper
- Work on Portfolio

Wednesday 12/4 – Wrapping Up

- Tying it all up
 - Course Evaluations

Homework:

- Course Portfolio due Weds. 12/11 @ 11:00 am