

History 193  
**Honors Thesis Research**

Fall 2014 – UC Merced

Instructor: Professor Sean L. Malloy (smalloy@ucmerced.edu)

Office Hours: Tu 2:00-3:00 pm, Th 4:15-5:15 pm, COB 311

### **Course Description**

The History Honors program offers students the opportunity to work closely with an individual faculty mentor on an extended, two-semester research project during their Senior year, culminating in an Honors Thesis of approximately 50-100 pages. In History 193, students will work with their assigned faculty mentor as well as the course instructor to identify a research topic, write a prospectus, compile an expanded bibliography of primary and secondary sources, write a brief review of the relevant historical works related to their topic, and produce a detailed outline. By the end of this course, you should be ready to start writing a first draft of your Honors Thesis (which you will undertake in History 194).

We will not meet regularly as a class. Instead, after our initial meeting you will be assigned a faculty mentor with whom you will establish a meeting schedule. In addition, you will meet individually with the instructor on several dates (see below) to receive feedback on your assignments and discuss any questions, problems, or issues that have arisen in the course of your research. We will meet again as a class during the last week of the semester and each student will make brief presentation outlining the current status of their project.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Identifying productive historical questions
2. Identifying appropriate primary and secondary sources
3. Analyzing the major approaches to the topic

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

There are a minimum of four written assignments for this course. The first is a prospectus (2-4 pages) due September 25. In the prospectus you will briefly describe your proposed topic, including a series of questions that will guide your research and a brief bibliography (of at least five items) of relevant secondary works. On October 16 you will submit an extended bibliography that should include at least 15 secondary works as well as a list of primary sources which you plan to consult. An historiographical essay (7-10 pages) covering the major secondary works related to your topic is due November 6. In this essay, you will consult the works listed in your extended bibliography in order to summarize the major findings, questions, and areas of disagreement among historians who have studied your topic. A detailed outline of your Honors Thesis is due on November 20. By the time you have finished the outline, you should be ready to begin writing the thesis. We will meet one last time as a class on

December 11 at which point you will make a brief (approximately 15 min.) oral presentation summarizing the current status of your research project.

In addition to these minimum requirements, your faculty mentor may choose to require additional written or oral work. Please be sure to clarify any additional assignments with your faculty mentor at the start of the semester. Your final grade for this course will be determined by your faculty mentor in consultation with the course instructor.

Grading breakdown:

Prospectus	25%	September 25
Extended bibliography	25%	October 16
Historiographical essay	25%	November 6
Thesis outline	25%	November 20

### **Academic Integrity**

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of California, Merced's Academic Honesty Policy. The relevant section on plagiarism states that:

Plagiarism refers to the use of another's ideas or words without proper attribution or credit. This includes, but is not limited to: copying from the writings or works of others into one's academic assignment without attribution, or submitting such work as if it were one's own; using the views, opinions, or insights of another without acknowledgment; or paraphrasing the ideas of another without proper attribution. Credit must be given: for every direct quotation; when a work is paraphrased or summarized, in whole or in part (even if only brief passages), in your own words; and for information which is not common knowledge. The requirement to give credit applies to published sources, information obtained from electronic searches, and unpublished sources.

Penalty for violation of this Policy may include failure of the course and University disciplinary action. Please see the entire policy <http://studentlife.ucmerced.edu>.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

The University of California Merced is committed to ensuring equal academic opportunities and inclusion for students with disabilities based on the principles of independent living, accessible universal design and diversity. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss his or her specific needs. Also contact Disability Services at (209) 228-7884 as soon as possible to become registered and thereby ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

## **Tentative Schedule**

Week 1: Meet with Instructor

Week 2: Meet with faculty mentor; establish regular meeting schedule with mentor

Week 5: Prospectus due

Week 8: Extended bibliography due

Week 11: Historiographical essay due

Week 14: Outline due

Week 15: Oral presentations