

# HY 215

## Introduction to Historical Research

### Fall 2020

**Instructor:** Dr. Marcus Witcher

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**Office:** Flowers 307

**Office Hours:** MWF 11:00-12:00, 1:00-2:00 and by appointment

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**Course Description:** This course is about the study of history. We will look at various historians and their work, talk about different schools of historical research and writing, and trace the development of history as a discipline of study. We will also work on familiarizing ourselves with a variety of historical resources, including a new emphasis on oral history. And finally, we will concentrate on refining our writing skills, especially with respect to technical details and citation issues.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

The objectives of this course, and their corresponding assessments, are as follows:

1) to gain a body of knowledge and understanding about the study of history, its development, and practitioners. This will be accomplished through discussions of the study of history. Evaluation will be performed through daily writing responses as well as a six to eight page reflection paper.

2) to learn about and to work with various historical resources that should be familiar to the history major. To achieve this, class members will visit the college's library and archives and will receive lectures on proper historical methods. Students will use these skills when crafting their research on a particular historian.

3) to further develop and refine writing skills. In this class students will systematically write a research paper on a seminal historian. Matters of grammar, citation, research, and writing will all be evaluated in students' final historian paper.

#### **With respect to the Program Assessment Plan for the History Department, the Program Student Learning Outcomes addressed by this course are:**

- SLO 1: Students graduating with a History major will demonstrate understanding of a body of knowledge about central historical persons, events, and ideas.
- SLO3: Students graduating with a major in History will demonstrate an improved ability to undertake historical research and properly process and communicate the results of that research in either written or oral presentation.

#### **Required Texts:**

John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

### **Attendance Policy:**

Statement about Attendance: “It is the student’s responsibility to swipe in (using the Huntingdon College official Student ID card) at the location provided in each classroom in order to be counted as present for each class meeting. Students are expected to check their Canvas course page after each class to verify the accuracy of attendance and to notify the instructor by the end of the day regarding any errors.”

“Officially excused absences will be entered (or pre-entered when possible) by the following office: Athletics (Coaches); Medical (Health Services); and Academic/College events (Office of the Provost).”

There will be five quizzes throughout the term. Furthermore, students will be assessed based on his or her participate in class discussion. This requires that all students have read the daily readings and have considered the source material carefully. Attendance is a prerequisite for participation. If students miss class, they should contact the instructor as soon as possible (preferably beforehand). If students miss assignments (with the exception of quizzes), he or she will be allowed to take the assignment at a time designated by the instructor providing the student can provide documentation demonstrating that the absence was unavoidable. For information about drop dates etc see <http://hawk.huntingdon.edu/registrar/home.html>

Students at Huntingdon College are expected to attend all classes and arrive to class on time. Students with legitimate excuses (college-sanctioned events, medical, family emergencies) must inform the instructor as soon as possible about missing exams or papers. Only excused absences are eligible to make up missed work. Any work missed due to unexcused absence is not eligible to be made up.

Statement about Medical Absences: “The Office of Student Health Services (located at Pro-Impact Physical Therapy, 1160 Navarro Avenue) can provide a **Verification of Visit** form to confirm that a student sought medical services for general illness or was referred to an outside physician or facility. Students should seek verification while they are sick and not AFTER they have missed a class.”

### **Electronic Expectations and Privacy Statement:**

Students are expected to check email daily and to monitor the Canvas course page for important announcements and correspondence from the instructor.

Huntingdon College faculty and staff members are committed to keeping student information private, as required by law. To serve this purpose, all student communications which are sent by email to any Huntingdon College representative, should be communicated by each student through his/her official Huntingdon College (@[hawks.huntingdon.edu](mailto:hawks.huntingdon.edu)) account.

### **Academic Honor Code:**

*“As a student of Huntingdon College, I hereby dedicate myself to the principles of*

*Honesty, Integrity, Responsibility, and Stewardship in all aspects of my life. I will be accountable for all that I say, write and do. I resolve to keep myself above reproach, realizing that my words and actions impact others' perceptions of this institution. I will participate actively in the efforts of Huntingdon College to fulfill its mission of Faith, Wisdom, and Service."*

**Code of Classroom Conduct:**

- a. Students are expected to treat their peers and professors with respect. Students shall not interrupt their fellow students or professor. Derogatory or sarcastic comments directed at students or professors are never acceptable, including written comments on Canvas discussion boards.
- b. Students shall attend all scheduled classes.
- c. Students shall bring all necessary books and other materials to every class.
- d. Students shall arrive for class on time.
- e. Students shall not leave class early or gather materials together until the class has ended.
- f. Students shall not engage in text messaging (receiving or sending) during class or talking on cell phones during class. If students have an emergency and must receive a message or call, they shall alert their professor at the beginning of class and then step out of the class to take the emergency call or message.
- g. Students shall refrain from Internet surfing during class. If a faculty member believes that a student is using his or her electronic device in ways unrelated to class, the professor may prohibit the student from bringing his or her computer to class.
- h. Students shall not talk with fellow students during class about topics unrelated to the course. Side conversations are distracting to one's colleagues and the professor.

**Assignments and Grading:** We will read and discuss John Lewis Gaddis's *The Landscape of History* during the first half of the semester. Students will be expected to write a two-page (double spaced, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins – as is the case with all papers) response/summary of each chapter as well as two questions before each class where we discuss the book. These responses will be worth 20% of the student's grade (200 points). Further, once we have completed the book, students will write a six to eight-page reflection paper on the writing of history. This reflection paper will be worth 20% (200 points) of the student's grade. Details will be provided on my website and in the form of a handout in class. The second half of the class will center on each student researching and writing about a historian of their choice. Students will select a historian and then consult primary and secondary sources about the details of the historian's life. Special attention should be paid to the methods, objective, and context of each historian. This eight to ten-page paper will be worth 20% of the student's final grade (200 points). There will be several other assignments to help students organize and write their paper. These assignments include a summary of the student's chosen historian, a thesis statement, an annotated bibliography, a detailed outline, and a rough draft. These assignments will be worth 20% of the student's final grade (200 points). Students will also present their findings to the class (100 points) and the audience will complete a short worksheet on each historian (counting toward their participation grade). Finally, students will be graded based on their participation in class discussions. Participation will be worth 10 % (100 points) of the student's final grade. To receive these points, you must contribute to the discussions. Further instructions for all

assignments will be available on the course page on my website and in class in the form of a handout. *All papers must be completed to pass this course.*

**Grading:**

Book Responses	200 points
Book Reflection Paper	200 points
Summary of Historian	20 points
Annotated Bibliography	80 points
Detailed Outline	50 points
Historian Rough Draft	50 points
Paper Presentation	100 points
Historian Final Draft	200 points
Participation	100 points

**The Staton Center for Learning Enrichment:**

“The Staton Center provides tutoring services for a variety of subject areas. Personnel are also available to help with writing assignments. The Center will also help organize group study sessions prior to midterm and final examinations. Academic Support Specialists will provide verification for students who participate in tutoring or study sessions, as well as for those who seek other forms of academic assistance. Please contact Ms. Maryann Beck, Ms. Vaughan Dickson, or Ms. Elizabeth Rogers for more information (334-4443).”

**Support Services for Students with Disabilities:**

“The faculty at Huntingdon College makes every effort to accommodate unique and special needs of students with respect to speech, hearing, vision, seating, or other possible adaptations. Please notify the Director of Disability Services, Dr. Lisa Olenik Dorman

at [disabilityservices@hawks.huntingdon.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@hawks.huntingdon.edu) or at (334) 833.4465 as soon as possible of requested accommodations.”

### **Medical Considerations (General or Athletic):**

“If you have a medical condition or injury that may preclude participation in this course or any aspect of this course, the College suggests you consult the Office of Student Health Services/Sports Medicine and the 504/ADA Coordinator (Dr. Lisa Olenik-Dorman). The College will work with you based upon documented recommendations to find the best means to address any concerns.”

### **Title IX Statement:**

*“Huntingdon faculty members are committed to supporting students and upholding the College's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX, discrimination based upon sex and gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the College the faculty member MUST report to the college's Title IX Coordinator what you share. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are people who can meet with you. Faculty can help direct you or you may refer to Huntingdon's Sexual Misconduct Policy at <http://www.huntingdon.edu/misconduct/> Title IX Coordinator: Eric A. Kidwell, [TitleIXCoordinator@hawks.huntingdon.edu](mailto:TitleIXCoordinator@hawks.huntingdon.edu)”*

### **Schedule of Events:**

Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>

- Introduction—discuss the syllabus

Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>

- Discuss Gaddis—Preface and Chapter 1
- Two-page book response on Chapter 1 due before class

Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>

- Discussion of proper citations in Turabian style

Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>

- Discuss Gaddis—Chapter 2
- Two-page book response on Chapter 2 due before class

Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>

- Discuss Gaddis—Chapter 3
- Two-page book response on Chapter 3 due before class

Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>

- Discuss Gaddis—Chapter 4
- Two-page book response on Chapter 4 due before class

Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>

- Discuss Gaddis—Chapter 5
- Two-page book response on Chapter 5 due before class

Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Discuss historian paper
- Assign historian summary

Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>

- Discuss Gaddis—Chapter 6
- Two-page book response on Chapter 6 due before class

Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

- Discussion of research methods and materials
- Historian summary assignment due
- Assign annotated bibliography

Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

- Discuss Gaddis—Chapter 7
- Two-page book response on Chapter 7 due before class

Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

- Discuss Gaddis—Chapter 8
- Two-page book response on Chapter 8 due before class

Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Discussion on how to write a paper
- Turn in annotated bibliography
- Assign detailed outline

Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

- Discussion of archives and proper practices

Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

- Response paper due at the beginning of class

Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

- No class. use this time to do research in the library and work on your detailed outline.

Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

- Turn in detailed outline
- Assign Historian Paper Rough Draft

Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

- No class, work on your rough draft.

Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

- No class, work on your rough draft.

Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

- No class, work on your rough draft

Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

- No class, work on your rough draft.

Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

- No class, work on your rough draft.

Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

- No class, work on your rough draft.

Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

- **Turn in your rough draft**

Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Historian presentations

Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>

- Historian presentations

Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

- Historian presentations

Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

- Historian presentations

**Final paper due Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> by end of day**