

History 391–02: Historical Skills and Methods (Spring 2023)
Time and Place: TR 12:30–1:45 PM, MHRA 1207

Professor David M. Wight (dmwight@uncg.edu)
Office Hours: by appointment via Zoom

STRUCTURE & SCOPE

Welcome! This course will teach you the skills and methods of historians, culminating in your own original research paper on a topic of your choosing within the subfield of the history of the United States and the world.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

There are two books assigned to everyone for the course. Books with a “****” after them are available for free as ebooks through the UNCG library. The books can also be purchased at the University Bookstore. Additional readings will be provided as pdfs on Canvas or via weblinks.

Andrew Preston, *American Foreign Relations: A Very Short Introduction* (2019)

Michael J. Salevouris with Conal Furay, *The Methods and Skills of History: A Practical Guide, Fourth Edition* (2015) ****

GRADING

Your final grade will be comprised of the following:

Attendance/Participation	20%
Assignments	20%
First Draft Research Paper	20%
Oral Presentation	10%
Final Research Paper	30%

Grading will be on the following scale: A = 93 and up; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87 to 89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = <60

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

You will be graded on attendance and (when relevant) participation. Attending only part of the time will only receive partial credit. You are given three excused absences (i.e. the three lowest scores will be dropped). Since some absences are already excused, additional absences can only

be made up with a writing assignment, only due to extreme extenuating circumstances, and only at the discretion of the professor.

On days when readings are assigned, you are expected to have completed the readings before the start of that class and that you are ready to discuss the readings with your fellow colleagues.

ASSIGNMENTS

There are ten small assignments throughout the course. They are generally submitted as hard copies in class and graded on completeness/demonstrated effort (though they can be emailed to me by the day they are due without penalty, or later with penalty, if you are absent). In other words, mistakes are ok, we are workshopping most of these assignments in class with the expectation of improving them, not finding them perfect on the first go.

ORAL PRESENTATION

In the final weeks of the class, you will give an oral presentation to the class about your research findings. Details on expectations and grading will be provided.

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER

The main project for this course, and its ultimate product, will be a minimum 8-page original research paper addressing a topic of your choosing within the subfield of the history of the United States and the world. You will submit a first full draft and then a final revised draft. Details on expectations and grading will be provided.

ETIQUETTE

Common sense respect is required. Likewise, when discussing ideas, you are required to be respectful of other people's arguments. Critiques and disagreements over the ideas we discuss are expected and even encouraged, but this does not permit anyone to be offensive or abusive toward others. I reserve the right to remove anyone from class for disrespectful behavior.

TECHNOLOGY

This course requires the capability of the student to use and regularly access a computer, a word processor, and the internet. The UNCG library is a resource for technology access.

On protecting your personal data and privacy, see https://policy.uncg.edu/university-policies/acceptable_use/.

If you encounter a technology problem, contact UNCG Information Technology Services as soon as possible. They have online, phone and walk-in options for technical support, all listed here: <https://its.uncg.edu/Help/>. If a technology problem poses the possibility of preventing you from completing coursework, communicate this to myself as soon as possible, too, so we can see if we can mitigate any negative impacts on your learning and grade.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

UNCG provides a variety of useful services for you, the student. Check them out!

The UNCG Library (<https://library.uncg.edu/>) has a wealth of books, articles, archival materials, and other media resources, computers, inter-library loan services, and knowledgeable staff.

The UNCG Writing Center (<https://writingcenter.uncg.edu/>) provides assistance with writing assignments; contact staff members to set an appointment either in person or via instant-messaging.

The UNCG Speaking Center (<https://speakingcenter.uncg.edu/>) provides assistance in improving your skill and confidence in public, group, and individual speaking.

If you have any needs or questions related to disability issues, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) (<https://ods.uncg.edu/>). I prioritize making this course accessible to all of the students in it, and I will work with OARS to accommodate students' requests. You do not need to disclose details about your disability to me to receive accommodations.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro prohibits any and all forms of academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsible to know what constitutes academic integrity and academic dishonesty, and to be familiar with UNCG policies on academic integrity laid out here: <https://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>. Students who engage in an academically dishonest act (such as plagiarizing part of a paper or cheating during an exam) will receive a grade of "F" in the course and be reported to the Academic Dean for possible additional disciplinary action, including expulsion from the university. Do not attempt it.

All writing assignments (reflections, papers, etc.) are subject to a plagiarism check through the website <https://www.turnitin.com/>. This website compares the text of your paper to text up on webpages, in scholarly works, and within its massive database of student papers submitted to schools around the world. If you purchase a paper to pass off as your own, it is possible the paper may contain portions reused and sold to other students as well. So do not plagiarize or purchase papers, whether only a portion of your paper or its entirety.

COMMUNICATIONS

I will make periodic announcements regarding important information about the course, accessible in the “Announcements” tab. Likewise, I will provide feedback on assignments under comments. I might also send you a message via Canvas or an email to your UNCG email address if needed. It is your responsibility to monitor and read all of these communications in a timely manner.

I am happy to answer your questions by email or message in Canvas. Please allow me a full day to respond (or two on weekends and holidays), but I’ll usually reply sooner. You can also email me to schedule a Zoom meeting to talk directly.

USEFUL WEBSITES

History Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/>

History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>

SYLLABUS MODIFICATIONS

I reserve the right to modify or alter any part of the syllabus as the course progresses. It is your responsibility to keep up with class announcements about any alterations.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp> or reaching out to recovery@uncg.edu

CLASS TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS

Week One

T 1/10 Introduction to the Course

R 1/12 The Study of History and US Foreign Relations

Readings:

Salevouris and Furay: Chapter 1 (pp. 3–8), Chapter 2 (pp. 13–20), & Chapter 3 (pp. 27–35)

Preston: Introduction

Week Two

T 1/17 From the American Revolution to World War I

Readings:

Preston: Chapters 1, 2, 3

R 1/19 Historical Thinking and Historiography

Readings:

Salevouris and Furay: Chapter 4 (pp. 43–54), Chapter 5 (pp. 65–71), Chapter 14 (pp. 255–268), & Chapter 15 (pp. 271–278)

Rosenberg, “America and the World” [pdf on Canvas]

Week Three

T 1/24 The American Century

Readings:

Preston: Chapters 4, 5, 6

R 1/26 Libraries and Archives

Readings:

Salevouris and Furay: Chapter 7 (pp. 103–114)

Week Four

T 1/31 Beginning a Project: Choosing a Research Topic and Making a Schedule

Assignment 1: Submit as a hard copy a paragraph-long description of your research question

R 2/2 Secondary Sources: Part I

Readings:

Salevouris and Furay: Chapter 8 (pp. 131–139) & Chapter 9 (pp. 151–163)

Week Five

T 2/7 Secondary Sources: Part II

Readings

Wight, "Henry Kissinger as Contested Historical Icon" [pdf on Canvas]

Assignment 2: Find, cite, and submit as a hardcopy at least two secondary sources that you could use for your project

R 2/9 Primary Sources: Part I

Readings:

Salevouris and Furay: Chapter 10 (pp. 169–177) & Chapter 11 (pp. 197–210)

Week Six

T 2/14 Primary Sources: Part II

Readings:

Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977–1980, Vol. XVIII, Middle East Region: Arabian Peninsula

DOCUMENTS 167–171

<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1977-80v18/ch4>

Assignment 3: Submit as a hard copy a paragraph-long description of at least one collection of primary sources that you could use for your project, detailing the location and nature of the primary sources and their relationship to your research question

R 2/16 Historical Interpretation, the Annotated Bibliography, and the Outline

Readings:

Salevouris and Furay: Chapter 12 (pp. 217–226)

Week Seven

T 2/21 Individual Meetings with Professor

Assignment 4: Submit as a hard copy a complete annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources

R 2/23 Individual Meetings with Professor

Assignment 4: Submit as a hard copy a complete annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources

Week Eight

T 2/28 Individual Meetings with Professor

Assignment 4: Submit as a hard copy a complete annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources

R 3/2 Individual Meetings with Professor

Assignment 4: Submit as a hard copy a complete annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources

Week Nine

T 3/7 Spring Break

R 3/9 Spring Break

Week Ten

T 3/14 History Writing 101

Assignment 5: Submit as a hard copy an outline of your research paper

Readings:

Salevouris and Furay: Chapter 6 (pp. 83–90) & Chapter 13 (pp. 241–248)

R 3/16 Writing Workshop: Thesis and Introduction: Part I

Week Eleven

T 3/21 Writing Workshop: Thesis and Introduction: Part II

Assignment 6: Submit as a hard copy your introduction

R 3/23 No Class: Keep Writing That Research Paper!

Week Twelve

T 3/28 Writing Workshop: Historiography Review: Part I

R 3/30 Writing Workshop: Historiography Review: Part II

Assignment 7: Submit as a hard copy a paragraph reviewing the existing historiography of your topic

Week Thirteen

T 4/4 Writing Workshop: Analysis of Primary Sources: Part I

Assignment 8: Submit as a hard copy a paragraph that includes an analysis of one or more primary sources

R 4/6 Writing Workshop: Analysis of Primary Sources: Part II

Assignment 9: Submit as a hard copy a second paragraph that includes an analysis of one or more primary sources

Week Fourteen

T 4/11 Writing Workshop: Citations

Assignment 10: Submit as a hard copy your footnotes converted to endnotes

R 4/13 Writing Workshop: Prose

First Draft: Submit as a hard copy a complete first draft of your research paper

Week Fifteen

T 4/18 **Oral Presentations**

R 4/20 **Oral Presentations**

Week Sixteen

T 4/25 **Oral Presentations**

F 4/28 **Final Draft: Submit Research Paper on Canvas by 11:59 PM**