

**HIST 451  
CAPSTONE RESEARCH SEMINAR  
20TH CENTURY AMERICAN CULTURAL HISTORY**

**Course Objective**

This course will prepare undergraduate history majors and minors to perfect their craft by writing a 25-page research paper based on original primary sources. The research subject must address some aspect of 20th century U.S. cultural history.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Intellectual breadth and lifelong learning. Students will demonstrate in-depth knowledge and skills in one or more areas of 20th century cultural history.
2. Inquiry and critical thinking. Students will identify problems, articulate questions or hypotheses, and determine the need for information.
3. Communication. Students will effectively use the common genres and conventions for historical writing.
4. Global multicultural knowledge and awareness. Students will function effectively in diverse groups.
5. Citizenship and ethics. Students will acquire knowledge of political, economic, and social institutions.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

It is imperative that each member of the class identify her/his capstone topic at the beginning of our course as this is a highly intensive research and writing class. In the first two months of our semester, students will be expected to produce and receive comments on a Prospectus and Preliminary Bibliography, an Outline for the final paper, an Annotated Bibliography, and a first draft of their capstone paper. We also will read and discuss cultural history as well as the craft of research and writing. In the third and fourth months, students will revise their drafts and engage in class presentations and individual consultations. The Final Paper is due by April 21. The last two weeks of class meetings are reserved for group presentations in a simulated conference setting.

Students will be evaluated on the completion of all class assignments, including the final research paper. Students must attend each course session and complete each step of the process as scheduled, meeting all posted deadlines.

Each absence will result in the deduction of a half-letter grade from the final grade. No late papers will be accepted; Incompletes will not be given.

**NOTE:** This is an advanced History course. It involves a rigorous amount of work on the part of the student. The course will move rapidly.

Grades will be based on total points of 100, allocated as follows:

In-Class Discussions: 5  
 Research and Writing Assignments: 10  
 Prospectus and Preliminary Bibliography: 15  
 Outline of Final Paper: 15  
 Annotated Bibliography: 15  
 First Draft: 20  
 Final Paper: 25

### Grading Key

A	95 - 100	B+	85 - 90	C+	70 - 75	D	under 60
A-	90 - 95	B	80 - 85	c	65 - 70	F	under 40
		B-	75 - 80	C-	60 - 65		

### Required Reading

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, eds., *The Craft of Research* (3rd Edition). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

### Required Resource Materials:

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. (7th edition). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

### University Memos

**Academic Misconduct**—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**Copyright**—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)**—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy**—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

**Transparency in Learning and Teaching**—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information: <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>  
<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

**Incomplete Grades**—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

**Tutoring and Coaching**—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**UNLV Writing Center**—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

**Rebelmail**—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.

**Final Examinations**—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

**Library:** Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the Subject Librarian is ([https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject)). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work

and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions:  
<https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

## Course Schedule

### **In preparation for our first class reading, please read the following:**

Article by Cazorla-Sanchez, 2008 (via email and on our course WebCampus site)

Part V, "Some Last Considerations," from our assigned text: Booth et al.  
 The Craft of Research.

Please come to the first class prepared to discuss the main points in the above readings and your research topic for your Final Paper.

### January 27 Welcome and Introduction

Review of Course Requirements and Deadlines Mark your Calendars now!

Prospectus and Preliminary Bibliography: February 10

Outline of Final Paper: February 24

Annotated Bibliography: March 10

First Draft: March 24

Final Paper: April 21

Final Paper Presentations: May 5 & 12

Student Presentations: Final Paper Topics

Review of assigned readings

Readings for next week: Parts I, II, & III, *The Craft of Research*

### February 4 From Topics to Questions/Assembling a Research Argument

Readings and Discussion: *The Craft of Research*

Part I: Research, Researchers, and Readers

Part II: Asking Questions, Finding Answers

Part III: Making a Claim and Supporting It

### February 10 Research Prospectus and Preliminary Bibliography Due February 17

Presidents' Day Holiday - no class meeting

### February 24 Outline of Final Paper Due

Presentations and Discussion of outlines

Reading for next week: Part IV, *The Craft of Research*

### March 3 Planning, Drafting, and Revising

Discussion of assigned reading: *The Craft of Research* Part IV March 10

Annotated Bibliography Due

March 17-21 -- UNLV Spring Break --

March 24 First Draft of Final Paper Due  
Presentations and Discussion of first drafts

March 31 Revise Drafts  
Individual Consultations

April 7 Preparing the Final Paper  
Presentations and Discussion of preparing the final paper

April 14 Individual Consultations

April 21 Final Paper Due

May 5 Presentations: Conference Panels 1&2

May 12 Presentations: Conference Panels 3&4