

History 251 & 451 Research Requirements

HIST 251- Introduction to Historical Methods is the Department's Milestone course. It emphasizes University Undergraduate Learning Objectives 2 (Inquiry and Critical Thinking) and 3 (Communication). HIST 251 is an introduction to history as a discipline and provides students with training and experience with the basic concepts of historical investigation and writing. Students will learn how to identify, evaluate and cite primary and secondary sources; how to formulate historical questions; how to organize and effectively express their thoughts and research in both in-class examinations and assigned papers; and how to make independent judgments about conflicting historical interpretations. This course provides a solid foundation for success as a history student and satisfies the History Department and University requirements for a Milestone Course. It should be taken when the student reaches sophomore status.

HIST 451 It develops Critical Thinking and Inquiry skills on a more advanced level. and satisfies the History Department and University requirements for a Culminating Experience course. Using the skills and knowledge from HIST 251 and other History courses, students will write a paper of about twenty pages using both secondary and primary sources to develop their own interpretation of an historical question. In this process, students will benefit from both the expertise of faculty and the insights of their fellow students. Students taking this course report a high level of satisfaction in "being their own historian" and producing a substantial piece of work. HIST 451 should be taken when the student reaches junior status.