

HIS 210: The Craft of History

HIS 210, “The Craft of History,” is a new class that will be required of all history majors and will be offered for the first time in Fall 2008. The goal of the following general criteria is to offer a “base” for the new course, one in which individual instructors can begin to construct more specific coursework for the students.

HIS 210 Criteria:

- 1) Students will complete a project of some kind in which they analyze the role of the professional historian and the various career opportunities a degree in history offers.
- 2) Students will analyze the role historians play in American society at large, how they contribute to helping solve and critique problems and issues in contemporary politics, society, and culture.
- 3) Students will be instructed in how to locate, identify, and critically analyze primary and secondary sources for use in historical research. In order to accomplish such a goal, the students will complete an annotated bibliography project on a topic of their or the instructor’s choosing.
- 4) Students will complete a primary source exercise in which they examine and make critical use of selected primary sources. They will learn to evaluate a primary source in its context and evaluate the source as historical evidence.
- 5) Students will use the data and evidence gathered for the primary source exercise mentioned above to compose a short paper that includes an interpretive thesis, a sound examination of available sources and records, and makes a definitive conclusion about a historical “problem.”
- 6) The course will also introduce students to the proper way to examine and interpret historical texts and monographs and evaluate such works for accuracy and relevance.
- 7) HIS 210 will also introduce students to the use of the Chicago Manual of Style for source citation purposes.

Approved by vote of History 210/Writing Enhanced Committee, 7/17/08.