History 100: The Historian’s Craft

Course Description and Goal

This course offers an introduction to historical practice, through a study of how history has been practiced at different times, and different approaches in current historical scholarship.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):

At the end of the course you will be able to:

1. Identify different approaches to historical study
2. Analyze a historical argument and evaluate its use of evidence
3. Chart the changing interpretation of events over time
4. Develop a plan for a historical research project, including a research question and relevant potential primary and secondary sources
5. Write an effective analysis of a secondary source

These CLOs relate to the following Program Learning Outcomes for the History major:

Critical Thinking
1. Identify and summarize an author’s argument
   Identify points of agreement and disagreement among conflicting interpretations of the past.
   Construct a well-developed thesis and a persuasive argument

Research Skills
1. Use the library, relevant databases and indexes, and the Internet to identify and locate sources.
2. Develop bibliographies of primary and secondary sources.
3. Master conventions for citations and bibliographies.

Written and Oral Communication Skills
1. Organize an analytical essay that sustains an argument over the entire length of the paper.
2. Present information in lucid, grammatically correct prose.
3. Construct paragraphs with effective topic sentences.
4. Make a well-organized and clear oral presentation