



**HIS 2070: DOING HISTORY**  
History & Political Science Department  
Point Loma Nazarene University  
4 Units  
Fall 2025

**Meeting days:** MWF

**Meeting times:** 1:30-2:35

**Meeting location:** Colt 120

**Final Exam:** Fr., 1:30-4:00pm

**Professor:** Dr. Kelli McCoy

**Phone:** 619-849-2438

**E-mail:** KelliMccoy@pointloma.edu

**Office:** Colt 114

**Office hours:** After class or by appointment.

**Course Description:**

An introduction to historical methods and the skills necessary for upper division work in history. While writing several short papers and one major research paper, students practice a wide range of research skills such as analyzing primary and secondary texts, working in archives and libraries, editing and revising, note taking, and documentation. In addition, class readings on contemporary historiography and new methods such as cultural studies and material culture acquaint students with the wide range of approaches to history. Students also visit local libraries, archives, and museums, and are encouraged to investigate the opportunities available for internships and career development during their student years.

**PLNU Mission:** Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

**History Program Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to...

- Complete a substantial historical project autonomously. (Assessed with the research paper.)
- Present and analyze, in written or oral presentation, different perspectives on an event from the past. (Assessed with the research paper, essays on exams, and Primary Source Discussion leadership.)

- Find appropriate materials online, in a library, or in the community and know how to cite them. (Assessed with the research paper.)

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to...

- Understand the career options available for history majors
- Evaluate various types of primary and secondary sources.
- Write a research paper that exhibits their own original analysis of the sources.
- Explain the methodologies used by historians
- Identify their philosophy of history

**Required Texts:**

**Lomabooks Instructions for Students:** This course is part of our course material delivery program, **LomaBooks**. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your materials.

For more information about **LomaBooks**, please go: [HERE](#)

- Turabian, Manual for Writers of Research Papers (also available in the reference section of the library)
- All other reading assignments will be accessed through Canvas or the library

**Assessment and Grading:**

Please contact me at any point during the semester if you have questions about your grade.

Assignment distribution by percentage:		Letter grades assigned as follows:	
Participation:	40%	A=93-100	C=73-76.99
Research/Reflection Assignments:	35%	A-=90-92.99	C-=70-72.99
Final Research Paper:	25%	B+=87-89.99	D+=67-69.99
		B=83-86.99	D=63-66.99
		B-=80-82.99	D-=60-62.99
		C+=77-79.99	F=0-59.99

**Participation:**

Much of what we will do this semester involves *being there* and being *actively engaged*. Both components are required for a good participation grade. We will do field trips, have guest speakers, work together in the library, etc., and your participation grade includes your active and collaborative engagement in all of those activities. When we do field trips, I will help organize the transportation and carefully arrange the timing to line up with our class schedule, so those things should not be an obstacle. If anyone cannot attend an event that is outside of our class time, I will provide them with an alternate assignment.

**Research/Reflection Assignments:**

We will do many short written assignments throughout the semester as we explore what it means to “do history.” Those assignments will all be posted in Canvas.

**Research Paper:**

We will work together on learning the stages of a successful research project, and by the end of the semester, you will have accomplished a substantial research paper! We will go through all of the steps together. Detailed instructions will be on Canvas.

**POLICIES:****Final Examination Policy:**

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

**\*Note: There is not a traditional final exam in this class, but we will still meet during our final exam time to share about your finished research papers.**

**Incompletes and Late Assignments:**

Please talk with me as soon as possible if for whatever reason you are having trouble completing your work, so that we can find the best solution. All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due, unless otherwise indicated on Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances. There are no make-up exams, unless you have contacted me in advance, in which case I *may* allow it depending on the circumstances. Late assignments will generally be subjected to a 10% penalty per day. However, if you contact me *more than 72 hours before the due date* and explain your circumstances (i.e. an unusual number of assignments due in other classes that week), your request for an extension

will be considered. Emergencies will be dealt with depending on the individual circumstances. Please ask me for more information if you believe you will need to turn in an assignment late.

**State Authorization:**

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow distance education outside California.

**PLNU Copyright Policy:**

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

**PLNU Recording Notification:**

Students may not record lectures or class discussions without prior permission from the professor.

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

**PLNU Academic Honesty Policy**

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

## **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy**

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

## **PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy**

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center ([EAC@pointloma.edu](mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course.

Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

## **Language and Belonging**

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on

age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at [www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination).

### **Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination**

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at [pointloma.edu/Title-IX](http://pointloma.edu/Title-IX). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at [counselingservices@pointloma.edu](mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu) or find a list of campus pastors at [pointloma.edu/Title-IX](http://pointloma.edu/Title-IX).

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at [www.pointloma.edu/bias](http://www.pointloma.edu/bias)

### **PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy**

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

### **Loma Writing Center**

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- [Appointment Calendar](#)
- [Website](#)
- Email: [writingcenter@pointloma.edu](mailto:writingcenter@pointloma.edu)

## Course Outline

Reading and other assignments are due on the dates listed

Week 1	<b>Intro to Historical Research</b>	
	Monday- 9/1	No class- Labor Day
	Wednesday- 9/3	Introductions in class
	Friday- 9/5	Meet at the PLNU Ryan Library- tour the library, practice using call numbers
Week 2	Monday- 9/8	AI Discussion and explore how to find sources using Ryan Library website and AI
	Wednesday- 9/10	Begin finding a topic and sources for research paper
	Friday- 9/12	Submit assignment on Canvas - identify a way history is being used/misused/interpreted, etc. in our world today (see Canvas for full instructions)  Discuss Canvas submissions and Historical Memory
Week 3	<b>Why Study History?</b> How do we know things about the past and why does it matter?	
	Monday- 9/15	In class: Refine research topics. Talk with Dr. McCoy about your top considerations.
	Wednesday- 9/17	Readings and class discussion on “Why Study History?” Readings on Canvas (will be done in class)
	Friday- 9/19	<b>Due on Canvas: Your research topic</b>  How do we know things about the past? Oral History unit: Introduction and assignment from <i>The Soul Speaks</i>

Week 4	Monday- 9/22	<p>Oral History unit: Read one story from <i>The Soul Speaks</i> and be prepared to tell your classmates about it in class today.</p> <p>In class: Locate an oral history archive online.</p> <p>Assignment: Brief oral history interview</p>
	Wednesday- 9/24	No class today - instead, you are required to attend the HPS "Family Dinner" tonight at 5pm on the lawn outside Colt (lower level)
	Friday- 9/26	<p>No class today- Use this time to work on your oral history interview.</p> <p><b>Submit oral history interview via Canvas by next Wednesday at midnight</b></p>
Week 5	Monday- 9/29	No class today - instead, you are required to attend the <b>Broadway show <i>Suffs</i> at San Diego Civic Theatre on Tuesday, 9/30 at 7pm</b> (tickets provided by HPS Dept, and we'll work out transportation)
	Wednesday- 10/1	<p>How do we know things about the past? Selections from: <i>Martha Ballard's Diary</i></p> <p><a href="https://dohistory.org/diary/">https://dohistory.org/diary/</a></p> <p><b>Submit oral history interview via Canvas</b></p>
	Friday- 10/3	No class- <b>Required to attend Colt Lecture in HPS Dept.</b> on October 8 at 3:30-5:00pm.
Week 6	Monday- 10/6	<p>How do we know things about the past? Selections from: <i>Abina and the Important Men</i></p> <p>Introduction to Chicago Style citations and footnotes</p>
	Wednesday- 10/8	<p>No class- Work on research papers!</p> <p><b>Colt Lecture at 3:30pm - attendance required</b></p>
	Friday- 10/10	Work on research papers

Week 7	Monday- 10/13	Work on research papers
	Wednesday- 10/15	Work on research papers
	Friday- 10/17	Work on research papers
Week 8	Monday- 10/20	No in-person class: Assignment on Canvas
	Wednesday, 10/22	No in-person class: Assignment on Canvas
	Friday, 10/24	<b>No class- Fall Break</b>
Week 9	Monday, 10/27	Details on Canvas
	Wednesday, 10/29	Details on Canvas
	Friday, 10/31	Details on Canvas
Week 10	Monday, 11/3	Details on Canvas
	Wednesday, 11/5	Details on Canvas
	Friday, 11/7	Details on Canvas
Week 11	Monday, 11/10	Details on Canvas
	Wednesday, 11/12	Details on Canvas
	Friday, 11/14	Details on Canvas
Week 12	Monday, 11/17	Details on Canvas
	Wednesday, 11/19	Details on Canvas
	Friday, 11/21	Details on Canvas

Week 13	Monday, 11/24	No in-person class. Assignment on Canvas.
	Wednesday, 11/26	Thanksgiving Break
	Friday, 11/28	Thanksgiving Break
Week 14	Monday, 12/1	Work on research papers
	Wednesday, 12/3	Work on research papers
	Friday, 12/5	Work on research papers
Week 15	Monday, 12/8	Finish Research Papers
	Wednesday, 12/10	Finish Research Papers
	Friday, 12/12	<b>Research Paper Due</b>

**Final Exam:** Friday, December 19, 1:30pm-4:00pm  
For your final exam, you will give a brief presentation on your research.