POINT 1902 LOMA
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

HIS 2070: Doing History

History & Political Science Department
Point Loma Nazarene University
4 Units
Fall 2026

Meeting days: R
Meeting times: 1:30-5:15pm
Meeting location: Colt 120
Final Exam: Thurs, 12/17, 1:30-4:00pm

Professor: Dr. Kelli McCoy
Phone: TBD- I'm changing offices
E-mail: KelliMccoy@pointloma.edu
Office hours: My new office will be in Colt 209, upstairs by the elevator. Office hours: Before and after class and by appointment. Also feel free to just stop by any time! I'll let you know once I'm actually moved into the new office. In the meantime, I'm floating around the department.

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.

Theme: Each semester, the professor picks a theme to help guide our exploration of historical methods and skills. This semester the theme is: **Witchcraft, Demonology, and the Law: Religion and Politics in the Early Modern Atlantic World**

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:

- 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

Participation (30%):
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.

Canvas Discussions/Reflection Assignments (15%):
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 Project (30%):
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.

AI Project (15%):
We will learn how to use AI in the stages of a research project, as well as how to use AI to create an interactive demonstration of your research.

Presentation (10%):
Your final exam will be an in-class presentation of your research project and interactive AI project.

Grading:

Please contact me at any point during the semester if you have questions about the status of your grade. Grades are weighted and will be calculated as follows:

Participation	30%
Canvas Discussions/Reflections	15%
Research Project	30%
AI Project	15%
Presentation	10%

Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

93%-100%	A	83%-87%	B	73%-77%	C
90%-93%	A-	80%-83%	B-	70%-73%	C-
87%-90%	B+	77%-80%	C+	etc.	

Course 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.

Content Warning:

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In this class, all of the

class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of U.S. and world history, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Incompletes and Late Assignments:

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due, including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

If assignments are turned in late, they will be subjected to a 10% penalty per day. 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:

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. Please consult the Academic Honesty Policy in the University Catalog for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU Academic Behavior Policy:

Both faculty and students at Point Loma Nazarene University have the right to expect a safe and ordered environment for learning. Students are expected to take the initiative to learn and conduct themselves in a mature and civil manner in the classroom environment. Any student behavior that is disruptive or threatening is a serious affront to Point Loma Nazarene University as a learning community. Students who fail to adhere to these behavioral standards may be subject to disciplinary action, including removal from class or further university sanctions. For a full definition of disruptive behavior, response procedures, and the appeal process, please consult the Academic Behavior Policy in the University Catalog.

PLNU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy:

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) to generate ideas, as a learning tool, or in some cases generate portions of work you will submit. I will specify in individual assignments what constitutes appropriate use of AI for that assignment. Please use this Purdue resource to guide your citations when using AI.

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, by email or phone

at 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 approved 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 approved accommodations in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive; as such, 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-related need should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. In accordance with ADA, accommodations cannot constitute a fundamental alteration to course outcomes; therefore, planning ahead is vital in establishing appropriate accommodations for equal access to this course. 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 eligibility 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.

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.

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 **LomaBooks** materials.

Course Outline for Doing History:

Witchcraft, Demonology, and the Law:
Religion and Politics in the Early Modern Atlantic World

Week 1		

Thurs	9/3	- Introduction to Historical Research
		- Introduction to using AI for historical projects
		- Introduction to the course theme: witchcraft and demonology in the early modern world
		  - Explore primary source Ebook through PLNU library: Mackay, Christopher S. *The Hammer of Witches : A Complete Translation of the Malleus Maleficarum.* Leiden: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
		  - Locate a physical book, Ebook, and article about witch trials in the PLNU Ryan Library

Week 2		

Thurs	9/10	- In class: The Salem Witch Trials
		  - How to use primary sources
		- Submit Canvas assignment: Advize
		- Submit Canvas assignment: Beginning Historical Research
		  - Demonstrate ability to cite different kinds of sources

Week 3		
Thurs	9/17	- In class: The Salem Witch Trials - Historiography (secondary sources) - Submit Canvas assignment: Identify and explain your research paper topic
Week 4		
Wed	**9/23**	**Attend HPS Dept. Dinner** on the evening of Wed. 9/23 and submit a brief note in Canvas telling Dr. McCoy about at least one new student you met and talked with.
Thurs	9/24	**No class session today.** This is a swap for the HPS Dinner you attended last night. **You do have work due in Canvas.**

Week 5		
Thurs	10/1	- Field Trip to San Diego History Center at Balboa Park during class time (meet Dr. McCoy outside our classroom at 1:30 to get a ride) - Submit Canvas assignment
Week 6		

Thurs	10/8	- In class: Field Trip to PLNU Archives in Mission Valley (meet Dr. McCoy outside our classroom at 1:30 to get a ride)
		
		- Witch Trials in Scotland
		  - How historians can create and use primary source databases, like The Survey of Scottish Witchcraft
		  - Explore how to use AI tools to create databases
		- Submit Canvas assignment

Week 7		
Thurs	10/15	**No in-person class today. Focus on the research for your paper.** - Submit assignment in Canvas
Week 8		
Thurs	10/22	**Fall Break– No Class**
Week 9		

Thurs	10/29	- In class:
		  - Comparing witch-hunts throughout the early modern Atlantic World
		  - Work on AI projects together
		- Submit assignment in Canvas

Week 10		
Thurs	11/5	- Field Trip during class time - Submit Canvas assignment
Week 11		
Thurs	11/12	- Work on projects and research papers - Submit Canvas assignment

Week 12		
Thurs	11/19	- Work on projects and research papers - Work on presentations
Week 13		
Thurs	11/26	**Thanksgiving Break - No Class**
Week 14		
Thurs	12/3	**AI Project Due**
Week 15		
Thurs	12/10	**Research Paper Due**
Final Exam Week		
Thurs	12/17	**Final Exam** 1:30-4:00pm **In-class Presentations will be your Final Exam**