

**HIS270: Research Methods**  
**Fall 2016**

**Instructor:** William Wood

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**Hours:** Generally, between 2:30 and 5:00, M-F (or anytime you can catch me)

**Course Objectives and Outcomes**

This course is 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 acquaint students with the wide range of approaches to history, with a special focus on exploring a Christian perspective of the discipline. 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.

Traditionally, each year of HIS270 has had a theme topic to help students focus their research early as well as to be able to assist one another in the process of producing a final research paper. This semester our theme will be the “Cold War” broadly defined. We will use the vast primary and secondary sources available on this significant era in recent world history to practice the various steps involved in historical research. The final outcome will be a polished research paper on a Cold War theme.

**Required Texts**

Fea, John. *Why Study History? Reflecting on the Importance of the Past*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.

Levering, Ralph B. *The Cold War: A Post-Cold War History*. Third Edition. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2016.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Summary version available here: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

**Assignments and Expectations**

1. Regular attendance and participation at every class session is required. As usual, no electronic devices are allowed in my classroom unless authorized by me.
2. Numerous short written assignments will be submitted throughout the semester, covering both assigned readings and practical exercises to enhance your research skills. These will be due at the beginning of class.
3. Research Topic Overview (Prospectus): a 4-5 page summary of your research topic including: working hypothesis/thesis, your methodology or approach, a preliminary bibliography (both primary and secondary sources), and a preliminary outline of the major sections of your research paper.

4. Journal article abstract: a short (1-2 pages) summary of an academic research article related to your topic.
5. Book Review: again, a relatively short (2-3 pages) review of one of the secondary sources that you are using for your research paper.
6. Analytical Research Paper: approximately 10-15 pages in length, delivered in several stages:
  - a) first submitted draft of polished historical writing in progress (minimum 5 pages).
  - b) you will also summarize your research in an oral presentation to the class.
  - c) a near-final draft of the entire completed paper to be reviewed by one of your peers.
  - d) the final, stunning piece of historical research. Approximately 10-15 pages in length and due during exam week.
7. During this semester you will be required to provide at least three examples of the use of history (well or poorly) by a politician, actor, advertisement, professor, friend, whatever... We will use these to discuss how history is "used" all the time in the world we live in.

### Grading

Participation (includes short class assignments and your presentation)	20%
Research Assignments (prospectus, journal abstract, book review, and peer review)	30%
Final Research Paper	50%

### Course Calendar

(Note: This is a best guess only. You will be held responsible for any changes made and announced in class, including handouts and additional readings).

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
R	SEP 1	Introduction (to course and theme)	
T	6	Why Study History?	Fea, chap. 1-2 [T: 1-2]
R	8	Choosing a Subject	Levering, pp. 1-57
T	13	(Cold War theme-cont.)	Levering, pp. 58-110
R	15	<i>Individual Consultations</i>	[T: 3-4]
T	20	(Cold War theme-cont.)	Levering, pp. 111-153
R	22	<b>Ryan Library visit</b>	Turabian: 15-17!!
T	27	(Cold War theme-cont.)	Levering, pp. 154-229.
R	29	<b>Journal Abstract due</b>	
T	OCT 4	The Past is a Foreign Country	Fea, chap. 3
R	6	<b>Prospectus due</b>	[T: 5-6]
T	11	Christianity and History	Fea, chap. 4-5
R	13	<i>Point Loma Archives visit</i>	

T		18	What can history do to you?	Fea, chap. 6-7
R		20	(cont.)	
T		25	Bad History: Plagiarism and Fallacies	[T: 6-7]
R		27	<i>San Diego History Center @ 8:30</i>	<b>Book Review due</b>
T	NOV	1	What to do with a History degree	Fea, ch. 8
R		3	(cont.)	
T		8	Writing History	[T: 9-11]
R		10	<i>Maritime Museum visit</i>	
T		15	Research	
R		17	<b>Paper due to Peer Reviewer</b>	
T		22	Review with peer	
R		24	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	
T		29	Research/presentations	
R	DEC	1	Research/presentations	
T		6	Research/presentations	
R		8	Research/presentations	

**Thursday, December 15: Final Draft of Research Paper Due by 5:00 p.m.**

## **PLNU Mission**

### **To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send**

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 is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

### **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 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. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### **PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at [DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See Disability Resource Center for additional information.

### **PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See Academic Policies in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

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