

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT
HI 399: Historical Research
700 points total

You will produce a paper of approximately 2500-4000 words (roughly 10-15 pages) as well as a collaborative website on an approved topic of your choice centered on the class-selected theme of Kansas City (and the greater mid-west) from WWI to WWII.

Part I: Annotated Bibliography and Historiography (150 points)

Due at the beginning of class on Thursday October 23

1. For this portion of the project, you must provide an annotated list of at least 8 **academic sources** that you plan to use for your research paper. Your annotations should consist of at least one well-developed paragraph that at a minimum describes the major points of the source, indicates its usefulness to your project, and assesses the source's strengths and weaknesses.
 - a. I have posted an annotation worksheet to Canvas that I highly recommend. It will help guide you through the process and keep track of your sources.
 - b. You are expected to carefully choose your sources based on their appropriateness for your topic. In other words, do not just use the first 8 things that you find
 - c. You are also expected to have actually read and examined these sources before writing your annotations.
2. Your bibliographic entries must be presented in Chicago/Turabian style. Please consult your Turabian guide for more information.
3. For information on annotations please see the following:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>
4. You must include your working research question or thesis statement on your bibliography. This is important so that I can make sure that your research will help you to answer this question. It is also especially important if you have revised or narrowed your topic since the proposal stage.
5. In addition to the annotations, you will write a one-page (double-spaced) historiographical account of your topic wherein you will address the major sources and questions that scholars have already addressed about your topic. In other words, your response should describe what kinds of sources you discovered in your research, what questions have been addressed by scholars already, which questions have not been adequately addressed, major changes in the study of your topic over time, etc. We will discuss the specifics of historiographic essays more in more depth in class.

Part II: Paper Draft and Peer Review (50 points)

Paper due on Canvas by midnight on Monday Nov. 17

Peer Review will begin in class on Tuesday Nov. 18

1. You will complete and turn in a draft of your research paper to Canvas by midnight on Monday Nov. 17.
 - a. Please note that a draft is intended to be a full and complete version of your paper that we will work to improve. It is not a partially completed, sketchy, or un-reviewed paper.
2. In class on Tuesday Nov. 18, you will work in pairs to review each other's papers and offer suggestions for improvement. I will provide more specific guidance in class.
 - a. I will print out the documents that you posted to Canvas and bring copies to class for everyone.

Part III: Presentation (50 points)

During the last week of class

1. The last week of our class will be devoted to oral presentations of your research. Each presentation should be between **10-20 minutes** in length.

Part IV: The Research Paper (300 points)

Due on Canvas by 2:00 PM on Dec. 16

1. Argument/Research Question. Remember that any good research paper is not simply a report; it is analytical. Your paper must contain a cogent argument with a clear thesis that you prove in your essay.
2. General Presentation of Findings. Papers should be clearly and concisely written, well organized, and presented in your own words with very few long quotes and only a limited shorter ones. This essay should have an introduction, thesis, a main body, as well as a conclusion that sums up what you have said and assesses its significance. Your paper must be between 2500-4000 words (roughly 10-15 pages), NOT including the bibliography.
3. Audience. Direct your paper to an audience of educated non-academics. In other words, you are writing for people who are not experts in your topic, but are fairly knowledgeable about US history.
4. Final Presentation and Mechanics.
 - a. Your papers must 10-15 pages (2500-4000 words) in length and include page numbers
 - b. Use a standard font and size (Times New Roman, size 12 is preferable)

- c. Proofread carefully. Sloppy papers with misspellings, typographical errors, and grammatical problems will weaken your argument and lower your grade.
 - i. This is a formal paper. Avoid contractions, abbreviations, clichés, and colloquialisms.
 - ii. Use a consistent verb tense, preferably the past tense.
- d. Follow the guidelines for citation and formatting as presented in the Turabian guide.
- e. All historical data and information that is not common knowledge **MUST BE CITED** in Turabian/Chicago style
 - i. You **MUST** include a Bibliography (not a Works Cited)
 - 1. A Works Cited page is a list of the sources that you actually cited in the paper
 - 2. A Bibliography includes works that you consulted but did not necessarily directly cite in your paper as well as those that you did.
 - ii. Failure to cite or provide a bibliography will result in an automatic “F”

Part V: Public History Project (150 points)

Must be completed by Friday Dec. 19 at 8:00 PM

1. A worthwhile research project does not simply end when you write a paper and turn it in. Part of the goal of this class is to get you to think about where historical information comes from and how to make it accessible to the public.
2. With that in mind, you will work together to take the research that you have done this semester and turn it into a public website.
3. We will collaborate on this project, but each of you will be responsible for translating your research paper into a dynamic and community friendly page.
4. Ultimately, the website should be as cohesive as possible, while representing the individual research that you have each accomplished.
5. While this class along with historiography in the Spring semester, meet the technology requirement for graduation, I understand that none of us are professional web-designers or computer programmers. Thus, we will be using a simple Wordpress interface accessed through Avila’s Center for Transformational Learning (more instruction on this will be provided). Some of the base development on the site will be completed before you begin your work on it, but your role must be greater than simply adding written content to a pre-existing website.
6. We will have extensive time in class to discuss this project and work on it together. We will also have a guest speaker from the Center for Transformational Learning who will visit our class later in the semester to help with this process.
7. While this portion of the project is collaborative, you will each receive an individual grade that will take into account the project as a whole and as well as your unique contribution to it.