Metropolitan State University

HIST 490 : Historian as Investigator: Historical Research

A. Course Description

Credits: 4

Prerequisites: HIST 401 Topics Proseminar

Lab Hours/ Weeks: Corequisites: None

Lecture Hours/ Week :

MnTC Goals: None

Taking the role of professional historians, students conduct research in archives and libraries, use local collections of historical documents, read and produce projects in oral history, research distant archives through the Internet, and help to inventory community-based records. Students investigate at length one topic of their own choosing, using two or more methods of historical research. They discover the excitement of using documents written "at the time," of finding "the truth" in history, and of researching and writing about a topic of personal interest. Traditionally, the class has involved both history students and students outside the discipline. History majors should take the capstone course at or near the end of their study in history. Discipline preparation has not determined performance.

B. Course Effective Dates: 01/25/2000 - 05/04/2002 05/04/2002 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. To conduct library and archival research on an original and individually developed historical topic.
2. To develop the ability to present research questions in the context of current historiography, consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctively characteristic of upper-division courses completed at a comprehensive university.
3. To engage in independent thinking and independent historical inquiry, consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctively characteristic of upper-division courses completed at a comprehensive university.
4. To practice critical and analytical skills on: historical theories, controversies, and debates; primary sources; historical events, phenomena, movements, or ideas, consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctively characteristic of upper-division courses completed at a comprehensive university.
5. To write a research paper that incorporates an array of secondary and primary sources, integrates analytical and historiographical skills, and presents a convincing and well-written historical argument supported by literature review and archival work, consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctively characteristic of upper-division courses completed at a comprehensive university.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

This contains no goal areas.

F. Special Information

Prerequisite: Declared History major or instructor's permission.