



HISTORY 595.02W
Independent Study: Research Lit and Techniques
The Black Death
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Sharon Kowalsky
Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 111
Office Hours: by appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description:

Research Literature and Techniques. Three semester hours. Required of students in Option II. This course requires an extensive investigation into a topic agreed upon by the student and instructor. The student will produce a historiographic essay and annotated bibliography under the direction of the instructor. Students must pass the History Department Qualifying Examination prior to enrollment. Note: "The student is required to demonstrate competence in systematic research procedure."

Student will prepare a historiography paper on the theme of the Black Death.

Course Materials:

- Baillie, M.G.L. *New Light on the Black Death: The Cosmic Connection*. Stroud, UK: Tempus, 2006.
- Benedictow, Ole J. *The Black Death and Later Plague Epidemics in Scandinavian Countries: Perspectives and Controversies*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016.
- Benedictow, Ole J. *What Disease Was Plague?* Boston: Brill, 2011.
- Benedictow, Ole J. *The Black Death 1346-1353: A Complete History*. Woodbridge, UK: The Boydell Press, 2004.
- Cantor, Norman F. *In the Wake of the Plague: The Black Death & the World It Made*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001.
- Gottfried, Robert. *The Black Death: Natural and Human Disaster in Medieval Europe*. New York: The Free Press, 1983.
- Horrox, Rosemary. *The Black Death*. New York: Manchester University Press, 1994.
- Scott, Susan and CJ Duncan. *Biology of Plagues: Evidence from Historical Populations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Twigg, Graham. *The Black Death: A Biological Reappraisal*. New York: Schocken Books, 1985.

Note: I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary over the course of the semester.

Student Learning Outcomes: This course will teach students to evaluate and analyze materials, and to understand different historians' interpretations of events. By the end of the semester, students should be able to: *make an overall argument about the historiography on the Black Death*. Fulfillment of the Student Learning Outcome will be evaluated using the final historiographical paper, according to a rubric.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Attendance and Participation

Student and teacher will meet regularly via Zoom to discuss the books and articles under consideration, at a mutually convenient time. Attendance at such meetings is required.

Written Assignments

This semester's major written work will be a historiographical essay of 15-20 pages that brings together the major themes and trends in the scholarship on gender and sexuality during the Cold War.

Grading

Grades for the semester will be determined according to the following breakdown:

Historiography Essay	70%
Participation	30%

Your grades for written work will be determined based on the following rubric:

- A = Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean
- B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement
- C = Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned
- D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

90-100 =	A
80-89 =	B
70-79 =	C
60-69 =	D
59 or less =	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:

Word Processing:

Students will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare written exams and research projects. Students should be able to insert footnotes into papers.

Communication:

Students will need to have access to a computer with capabilities for Zoom and for access to MyLeo Online.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor:

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any and all reasons whatsoever. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. The best way to get in touch with the professor is through email. Please talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the term. I can be very understanding but only if I know what is going on with you.

Librarian:

Our librarian for Humanities and Social Sciences is Sarah Northam. She is available to assist you in your research, whether it is using the library or identifying and locating sources. Please take advantage of this assistance as you need it. Her contact information is as follows:

Sarah Northam, Reference Librarian
Sarah.Northam@tamuc.edu
903-886-5714

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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COVID Statement

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). I can be very understanding of problems that might arise over the course of the semester, but only if I know what is going on with you. I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class.

Late Papers

All written assignments are due as indicated in the Course Schedule below or on MyLeo Online. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and may be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per week. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. *I can be very*

understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance. To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of D or F.

Academic Honesty

In all courses, we expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask.

Writing Center

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

Nondiscrimination Notice

A&M–Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill-11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Meetings and due dates will be arranged regularly at a mutually convenient time for student and professor. **Final Historiography Paper is due on Friday, December 4, 2020, by 5:00pm.**