



HISTORY 592.01E
History Graduate Practicum
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

Instructor of Record: Dr. Sharon Kowalsky
Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 111
Office Hours: by appointment in person or on Zoom
Office Phone: 903-886-5928
University Email Address: Sharon.Kowalsky@etamu.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description:

New trends in the historical profession increasingly require that graduate students have experience producing research prepared for conference paper delivery or publication. This course will provide students guidance in using their thesis research in the preparation of a conference paper and/or for proposed publication in an academic journal or anthology. Students in the course will be required to propose the paper to an academic conference or submit the article to an academic journal or anthology call for papers for consideration. This course will meet regularly and is intended for students who are on the MA/MS thesis track a master's in history. Prerequisites: [HIST 590](#), [HIST 591](#) and students must pass the History Department Qualifying Examination prior to enrollment.

Course Meetings:

This semester, this course will be taught collectively by the History Department faculty who are not thesis committee chairs. Students will benefit from a variety of perspectives from faculty regarding writing, the academic and historical enterprise, and historical ethics. Classes meet Thursdays after 5pm on Zoom, accessed through the D2L shell.

Course Materials:

Strunk and White, *The Elements of Style* (Pearson, 1999) ISBN 978-0205309023, \$9.95
Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, 8th ed. (University of Chicago Press, 2013) ISBN 978-0226816388, \$18.00

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

This course will teach students to evaluate and analyze materials, and to express that understanding in writing. By the end of the semester, students should be able to produce high-quality writing that conforms to the norms and conventions of the historical profession. Students' ability to meet the objectives and learning outcomes of this course will be evaluated through regular course assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Attendance and Participation

For all class meetings, students are expected to come prepared with their writing sample and their assessment of their colleagues' samples, or other material as assigned. This means preparing the assignment before class and bringing the material to class. We expect all students to participate actively in our class and to contribute their thoughts, ideas, and questions to our collective exploration. We especially encourage you to bring your questions to class. We will create, and expect you to uphold, an intellectual environment in the classroom where we can listen to and consider others' arguments and opinions with an open mind and where we respect viewpoints other than our own.

Your participation grade will be based on your engagement in our class discussions and be guided by the following rubric:

- A = Always prepared, frequently participates, rarely absent
- B = Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent
- C = Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent
- D = Often unprepared, several absences
- F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences

How the Class Will Work:

This course is designed to encourage progress toward the completion of a student's thesis. At most class meetings we will hold writing workshops, discussing the works in progress as submitted for that week's consideration. For each writing workshop meeting, students will submit a writing sample from their thesis or thesis proposal of at least 4 pages, including footnotes. At least once, students must submit a revision of a previous submission. However, resubmissions of any material without revision will not be accepted (in other words, we should see progress toward completion with each submission). Each student will prepare detailed comments for each of their peers' submissions, including sentence-level comments and conceptual-level thoughts. All writing workshop submissions are due as listed on the Course Schedule below.

At the end of the semester, students will produce a professional CV and a self-assessment of 2-5 pages that intimately details their contributions to the class and the benefit they received from it. The self-assessment will be submitted to the professor as part of the written work for the course. The self-assessment should be reflective and specific.

We will also consider the ethics of the history profession and students will be responsible for writing a short 2-3-page assessment, with details of the assignment to be provided in class.

Grading

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

Written Work	50%
Participation	50%

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; proper citation format
- B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement; proper citation format

- 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; some errors in citation format
- D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning; poor citation format

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

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.etamu.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any and all reasons whatsoever. The more you let us know what is going on with you, the better we can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with the professor is through email. If necessary, we will coordinate a meeting either in person or via Zoom. Please talk to us about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. We can be very understanding but only if we know what is going on with you.

Questions or concerns should be addressed to the appropriate professor via email, and professors will communicate with via your university-registered email account, usually through MyLeo Online. If you prefer to use a different account, you will need to change your preferences with the university.

All emails sent to professors will be answered as quickly as possible, and you will receive a response within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends. No emails will be answered after 10:00pm.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide and a contract between student and instructor. It sets out the requirements and policies of the course and should be your reference for the semester. As instructors, we promise to adhere to the information as set out in this document. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment, whether in person or online (The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#), Policies and Procedures, Conduct). Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. This means turning off cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other devices, and putting away newspapers and other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. 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.

If we hold synchronous virtual meetings online, students should mute themselves except for when they are speaking. Although it is preferred to have video turned on, allowances will be made for those whose internet access does not allow for video interaction, or who are unable to turn on video for whatever reasons. Students are welcome to use a green screen background if they choose. Students attending online meetings should maintain the same respect and decorum they would in a traditional classroom. Students should pay attention to the class material, and not engage in other activities during class time.

Students who are clearly distracted, disruptive, or non-communicative will be marked absent for that day.

For more information about the University's attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

Late Papers

All written assignments are due on the date listed in the Course Schedule below. Late assignments cannot be accepted. To get the full benefit of this class, students need to be participating by submitting their writing on time, to allow classmates and instructors time to read in advance. The class only works if everyone participates on time. Even if you produce less than expected (or more than expected) you should still submit your writing.

Statement on Student Grievances

Students who have questions or concerns about the instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the instructor or a classmate should first consult with the instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky (Sharon.Kowalsky@etamu.edu). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guide Book.

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 and the History Department 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 East Texas A&M University Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3] and the Academic Integrity and AI Use Policy below). 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.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

AI Use Policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there may be legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructor's guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

In this class, which focuses on honing the writing abilities of students, there should be no use of generative AI. Students may use Grammarly or other spell-check programs to catch typographical errors only.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. We will do our best to adhere to this schedule, but we reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise. Please check the course page in MyLeo Online as the latest updates will be posted there.

Week 1: Aug 27

Topic: Introductions and Orientations. Setting the Projects and Scope of the Class

Instructor: Dr. Kowalsky

Week 2: Sept 3

Topic: Semester Project Proposals and Presentations

Instructor: Dr. Kowalsky

Week 3: Sept 10

Writing Workshop. Submissions due on Monday, September 7

Instructor:

Week 4: Sept 17

Topic:

Instructor: Dr. Ross

Week 5: Sept 24

Writing Workshop. Submissions due on Monday, September 21

Instructor: Dr. Ross

Week 6: October 1

Topic:

Instructor: Dr. Ross

Week 7: October 8

Writing Workshop. Submissions due on Monday, October 5

Instructor:

Fall Break Oct 8-11

Week 8: October 15

Topic:

Instructor:

Week 9: October 22

Writing Workshop. Submissions due on Monday, Oct 19

Instructor: Dr. Kowalsky

Week 10: Oct 29

Topic:

Instructor:

Week 11: Nov 5

Writing Workshop. Submissions due on Monday, Nov 2

Instructor: Dr. Moreno

Week 12: Nov 12

Topic: TBD

Instructor: Dr. Moreno

Week 13: Nov 19

Writing Workshop. Submissions due on Monday, Nov 16

Instructor:

Thanksgiving Break: Nov 25-29

Week 14: Dec 3

CV and Reflection due. Wrap ups.

Instructor: Dr. Kowalsky