



HIST 595.02E: Research Literature and Techniques

Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. E. Mark Moreno

Office Location: Ferguson 118

Office Hours: MF 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.; MWF 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

History Dept. Office Phone: (903) 886-5224

University Email Address: mark.moreno@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description Required of students in the Non-Thesis Track. This course requires an extensive investigation into a topic agreed upon by the student and instructor. The student will produce a historiographical essay and an annotated bibliography under the instructor's direction. Note: "The student is required to demonstrate competence in systematic research procedure." Prerequisites: HIST 590, HIST 591, and students must pass the History Department Qualifying Examination prior to enrollment. Students will prepare a historiographical paper that examines historical scholarship on a topic of their choosing (with the supervising faculty member's agreement). Students will also complete their Comprehensive Exams by the dates required by the Graduate School to fulfill the requirements for the Master's degree in History. PLEASE NOTE: The last day for Comprehensive Exam Reports to be submitted to the Graduate School for Fall is Friday, November 6, 2026. Your exam should be held at least one week prior to this date.

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 are expected to:

1. Assess the historical literature about a particular field of study
2. Demonstrate competence in systematic historical research procedures
3. Communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students and the instructor will meet regularly to discuss the books under consideration. In addition, the student will produce an annotated bibliography and a historiographical essay.

Written Assignments

This semester's major written work will be a historiographical essay. The final paper, due at the end of the semester, must include at least 10 academic works on American Southwest borderlands history. The paper should present a clear thesis, discuss the issues in the literature, and offer both suggestions for addressing shortcomings and avenues for further research. The paper should be of at least 20 pages, with footnotes properly formatted in Turabian/Chicago, and which includes a bibliography of all sources consulted, properly formatted. The complete annotated bibliography will be submitted to the instructor by Nov. 2.

Grading: The historiographical graphical essay and annotated bibliography are worth 150 points, while engagement and attendance at meetings with the instructor are worth 50 points. The participation/course engagement grade is based on your engagement in our historiographical discussions and is guided by this 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

F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences.

Course Schedule/Calendar (subject to change)

Week 1

Introduction/Discussion

Week 2

Topic Discussion/Research Questions

Week 3

Book Discussion (Titles TBA)

Week 4

Book Discussion

Week 5

Book Discussion

Week 6

Book Discussion

Week 7

Book Discussion

Week 8

Book Discussion

Week 9

Book Discussion

Week 10

Book Discussion
Annotated Bibliography Due

Week 11

Book Discussion

Week 12

Book Discussion

Week 13

Thanksgiving Week

Week 14

Finalize topic/research questions

Finals Week

Historiographical Paper Due/Present Paper

Course Specific Procedures

History Librarian: Our librarian for History is Inbar Michael. She is available to assist you in your research, whether it is using the library or identifying and locating sources for your Transformative Project. Please take advantage of this assistance. Her contact information is as follows: Inbar Michael Ferguson, Room 144 Inbar.Michael@etamu.edu

Statement on Student Grievances Students who have questions or concerns about the instructor's course policies or the conduct of either 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.

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>

Academic Integrity

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

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