

Kennesaw State University
History 3100
Historical Methods
Fall 2017
M/W 8 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
SO 2033

Dr. Jim Piecuch
SO 4116

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Office Phone: 470-578-6059

Office Hours: M/W 12:30-1:30 p.m., and by appointment

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce you to the practice of history as an academic discipline. As a prospective history or history education major, you will learn firsthand how historians work with historical sources and produce scholarship in the form of conference papers, articles, books, and classroom lectures. Our study will focus specifically on the era of the American Revolution. You will read several significant works on the topic to become familiar with major issues of the Revolution and to help you identify an area for your own research. Then, using the skills you have acquired, you will undertake your own research and produce an article-length essay.

Course Goals: The History Department has established a standard list of goals for all students taking History 3100. At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- *articulate what is encompassed by the discipline of history
- *recognize and follow ethical conventions of the discipline
- *understand the concept of a historical argument
- *know how to read articles and monographs in a scholarly way (i.e., identifying the author's argument, types of evidence used, explain how the author relates the work to other works in that area, analyze the organization of the work, and evaluate the author's success in proving the argument
- *write a book review
- *identify different types of sources
- *locate secondary sources and book reviews in both electronic and printed form
- *be familiar with finding aids and other research aids available in a library or archive
- *develop a valid historical argument based on primary sources
- *understand how historians identify and develop research topics, and do this yourself
- *understand how to position your research within a larger framework, and do this yourself
- *apply the conventions of *The Chicago Manual of Style* in your writing
- *become practiced in giving formal presentations
- *understand the difference between academic and public history
- * plan, draft, and complete a formal written work

Expectations: Success in this course requires regular attendance, prompt completion of all reading and written assignments, and active participation in discussions. Because of the importance of the material we cover, excessive absences will affect your grade. Each absence that is not made up will reduce your final average by three points. You can make up absences by submitting written makeup assignments.

Required Texts:

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 8th edition
Bernard Bailyn, *Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*
Gary Nash, *The Urban Crucible*
John Resch and Walter Sargent, *War & Society in the American Revolution*
Jim Piecuch, *Three Peoples, One King*

Grading: Your grade will be based upon the following factors:

Primary Source Assessment: 10 %
Condensation Exercise: 10%
Book Review: 15%
Discussion and In-class Writing Exercises: 25%
Research Presentation and Paper: 40%

Schedule: (Subject to Change)

Aug. 14: Introduction

Aug. 16: Historians and their Work
Readings: Rampolla, 1-7

Aug. 21: Historical Sources
Readings: Rampolla, 8-23
End of Add/Drop Period

Aug. 23: Library Orientation – In Class

Aug. 28: Discussion, Bailyn
Readings: Bailyn, through chapter 2

Aug. 30: Discussion, Bailyn
Readings, Bailyn, chapters 3-4

Sept. 4: No Class - Holiday

Sept. 6: Discussion, Bailyn
Readings, Bailyn, chapter 5-Postscript

- Sept. 11: Reading and Writing History
Readings, Rampolla, 24-41, 51-81
- Sept. 13: Discussion, Nash
Readings, Nash, through chapter 3
Primary Source Assessment Due
- Sept. 18: Discussion, Nash
Readings, Nash, chapters 4-5
- Sept. 20: Discussion, Nash
Readings, Nash, chapters 6-7
- Sept. 25: Writing History (again)
Readings: Rampolla, 82-110
- Sept. 27: Discussion, Resch and Sargent
Readings: Resch and Sargent, chapters 1, 3
- Oct. 2: Discussion, Resch and Sargent
Readings: Resch and Sargent, chapters 5, 8
- Oct. 4: Discussion, Resch and Sargent
Readings, Resch and Sargents, chapter 9
Last day to withdraw from classes without academic penalty.
- Oct. 9: Citing Sources
Readings: Rampolla, 111-150
- Oct. 11: The Writing and Publishing Process
- Oct. 16: Discussion, Piecuch
Readings, Piecuch, introduction-chapter 3
Condensation Exercise Due
- Oct. 18: Discussion, Piecuch
Readings, Piecuch, chapters 4-5
- Oct. 23: Discussion, Piecuch
Readings, Piecuch, chapter 6-conclusion
- Oct. 25: Catch-Up/Planning
- Oct. 30: Catch-Up/Planning
Last Day to Submit Book Reviews

Nov. 1: Research Discussion

Make a 5-8 minute presentation on your research topic, preliminary findings, and research plans.

Nov. 6: Conferences

Nov. 8: Conferences

Nov. 13: Conferences

Nov. 15: Conferences

Nov. 20/22: No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 27: Presentations

Nov. 29: Presentations

Dec. 4: Presentations

Last Day of Classes

Final Research Paper Due Date TBA

Miscellaneous

Academic Honesty: Please read the section on this subject in your student handbook. I expect all work you turn in to be your own, prepared without outside assistance or collaboration. Plagiarism (presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own) is easier to spot than you may realize. University rules require that I report suspected cases of plagiarism to the administration, and being found guilty of this offense can result in severe penalties. In addition, I will automatically fail you for the course. Cheating on exams in any form, including providing answers or information to other students, will also result in a failing grade.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation so that we can make arrangements to deal with this situation.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices: Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off before you enter the classroom. Any student whose phone sounds during class will be asked to leave the room immediately. Repeated violations may result in the offender being banned from the classroom.

Assignments: Writing assignments, lists of study terms, additional readings, etc., will be made available well in advance of the due date. We will discuss all assignments in class. Please see me if you have any problem with the assignments. To promote and reward regular attendance, assignments will no longer be posted on Desire2Learn.

Zero Tolerance Policy for Wiki-Idiocy: If your exams or assignments are found to contain incorrect, inaccurate, or irrelevant information not drawn from the readings or class lecture, and I trace this material to Wikipedia or similar garbage websites, you will automatically receive a zero for the assignment and an F for the course.

Problems and Personal Matters: If you have any difficulty with this course, such as understanding the readings or lectures, speaking in discussion, or personal issues that may affect how well you do in the course, please see me immediately. The sooner that I know about a problem, the faster we can solve it.

Additional University-Required Information

Academic Integrity Statement:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement. See also <https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>.

Include a statement of consequences for violation of this code. It is recommended that you review the Student Code of Conduct as related to Academic Integrity with your students by following the link above. You might also include a link(s) to websites designed to avoid plagiarism.

E-Mail Contact Requirement

Electronic Communications: The University provides all KSU students with an "official" email account with the address "students.kennesaw.edu." As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, **this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.**

ADA Compliance:

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Department of Student Success Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Department of Student Success Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. For more information please visit their website, sss.kennesaw.edu/sds.

Contact information is as follows:

SDS Email: sds@kennesaw.edu

Primary number for Kennesaw campus: [470-578-2666](tel:470-578-2666)

Primary number for Marietta campus: [678-915-7244](tel:678-915-7244)