Instructor: Dr. Jennifer W. Dickey  
Office: 4130 SO  
Office Hours: M-Th from 1:00-5:00 and by appointment  
Office Phone: 678-797-2295  
Cell Phone: 706-266-0603  
E-mail: jdickey2@kennesaw.edu

**Course description:** The course exposes students to how Americans think about the past, as well as its commemoration and public presentation. Special focus will be placed on the ways in which historians transfer their writing, research, and analytical skills to professions outside of academia. Major subfields and professions within public history are examined as are the current issues and controversies within the field. The class will combine lectures by the instructor and guest lecturers, in-class discussion, case studies, readings, and field trips to achieve the goals specified below.

**Course Goals:** At the completion of this course you should be conversant about the following:

- the major forms of public history  
- the origins and evolution of public history as a profession and the variety of careers in the field  
- the main principles and current issues of public history  
- how historiographical trends are reflected through public history  
- the problems and issues associated with implementing public history projects and programs  
- the place of public history in discussions of the contested past  
- the concepts of “shared authority” and “ownership” of the past  
- problems of objectivity and “truth” in public history  
- the role of public and private memory in shaping interpretations of the past

**Required Readings:** (available at the campus bookstore or at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))


Additional readings and handouts as assigned

**Attendance & Participation:** You are expected to attend class and to participate in class discussions. We will be working in groups throughout the semester, so it is important that you arrive at class on time and that you be prepared to contribute to your group’s work. You are expected to ask questions, contribute to class discussions, and be engaged in what is going on in the classroom. If you are sick or need to miss class for any reason, you should alert the professor in advance by e-mail or by phone. If an absence is deemed justifiable, you will be given an opportunity to make up the work. Participation counts for 25 percent of your grade, so be prepared and speak up!

**Student Services:** The Office of Disabled Student Support Services (Student Center, Suite 267) offers services to aid disabled students with their academic work. Arrangements for special services should be made at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

**Academic Honesty:** No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated; and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic-based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, 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.

**Group Presentations:** You will be assigned to a group with which you will deliver PowerPoint presentations to the class based on assigned readings. Each group will also give a presentation on the last day of class about the namesake of a building on the KSU campus. You will be given an opportunity to evaluate your contribution to the group presentations as well as the contribution of each member of your group. Your group should use the Vista discussion board for sharing files and carrying out online discussions about the presentation.

**Reading Analysis Papers:** You will submit a one-page analysis of the readings assigned to your group throughout the semester. You should identify the author of your assigned reading and the author’s thesis, or main argument. Does the thesis make sense? Does the author adequately support his or her argument? Your paper will be the basis for the creation of your group’s presentation on the assigned reading. Your group will be given 30 minutes in class to put together a presentation for the class, so it is important that you have read your assigned chapter and have crafted a thoughtful analysis of the assigned reading. Your papers should be short (one page, 12-point font) and concise. Papers will be graded on composition and content. The papers will count towards your participation grade.

**Namesake Project:** Each group will be assigned a building on the KSU campus and will be expected to conduct research about the person for whom the building is named. Most of the research can be conducted in the KSU Archives. Each group must submit a written report, which should be 3-5 pages plus a bibliography, on May 25. You will be required to give a short presentation (6-8 minutes) on your building and the individual for whom it is named to the class on May 25. Your presentation should include a PowerPoint with photographs of the building and the individual for whom the building is named, as well as photographs of any plaques or markers that recognize the individual. Each group must submit a hard copy of its PowerPoint in addition to the written report. For documenting your sources (bibliography and footnotes), you should follow *The Chicago Manual of Style*, using the humanities style guidelines, which are available online at [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). A hard copy of *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed., which is a useful resource for all your questions regarding grammar and punctuation, is available at the Sturgis Library. Papers will be graded on composition and content.

**Field trips:** We will be taking several field trips throughout the semester to broaden your understanding of how various organizations and institutions present history to the public. You are expected to show up on time, take notes, and ask questions as appropriate. Field trips represent a great opportunity for you to get to know public history professionals and for you to begin to understand how the lessons you have learned in the classroom apply in the real world.

**Field Trip Paper:** You will write a short review (750-1000 words) of the exhibitions at the Martin Luther King National Historic Site, which we will visit as a class on May 18. The paper should include a brief history of the site and a critical review of the two main exhibits as explained in the Exhibit Review attachment to the syllabus. Examples of exhibit reviews can be found in issues of *The Public Historian* or in *The Journal of American History*. Examples are also posted on WebCT. Assignments will be graded on content and composition. For documenting your sources, you should follow *The Chicago Manual of Style*, using the humanities style guidelines, which are available online at [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html).

Grading: Scale: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 0-59=F

- Participation 25%
- Group presentations 25%
- Field Trip Paper 25%
- Namesake presentation 25%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>VISTA – Public History organizations. Loewen, <em>Lies Across America</em>, pp. 1-50 and 10 questions. Gardner and LaPaglia, pp. 57-74 Dr. Tamara Livingston, Archivist, and Heather Oswald, Archive Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Ken Burns’ Civil War</td>
<td>VISTA – Ken Burns’s “The Civil War”: The Historians Respond Everyone read the Introduction and chapter 9. Group presentations on chapters 2,3,4,5,6,7,8, and 9. Everyone submit a one-page analysis of the reading for his or her group assignment. Visit “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War” exhibit in the atrium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>MLK Exhibit Review due</td>
<td>Meet in front of the Martin Luther King NHS visitor center at 9:00 a.m. Website <a href="http://www.nps.gov/malu/">http://www.nps.gov/malu/</a> VISTA – Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site 5-Year Strategic Plan Meet at the entrance gate to Oakland Cemetery at 11:00 VISTA – Oakland NR nomination, excerpts from Oakland Cemetery Master Plan, “Cemetery as Cultural Institution,” Article from “Reflections” HPD Newsletter, <a href="http://www.oaklandcemetsory.com/">http://www.oaklandcemetsory.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>The Enola Gay Controversy</td>
<td>Linenthal, Edward, <em>History Wars</em> Everyone read the Introduction and chapter 1. Group presentations on chapters 2,3,4,5,6,7, and 8. Everyone submit a one-page analysis of the reading for his or her group assignment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Namesake presentations</td>
<td>Submit final paper and hard copy of PowerPoint</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Exhibit Review

You will be required to write a review during the semester following our field trip to the Martin Luther King NHS. The review should be 3-4 pages (750-1000 words, 12-pt. Times New Roman) and should provide an analysis of the two main exhibitions at the site in terms of organization, design, themes, execution, and issues. The first exhibition is the “Courage to Lead” exhibition in the NPS Visitors Center. The second exhibition you should assess is the exhibition honoring Dr. and Mrs. King on the second floor of Freedom Hall. As you walk through the exhibitions, use the Framework for Assessing Excellence Form that is posted on Vista to help you organize your observations. **You will be expected to turn in the Assessment Form along with your paper.**

The reading assignments throughout the semester are designed to help you develop your critical thinking and analysis skills as they relate to assessing the impact, effectiveness, and quality of public history displays. You should use the *Chicago Manual of Style* (hard copy available in the library, citation style quick guide available online at [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)) and include footnotes as appropriate.

Your review should address the following questions:

- What is the mission of the institution that hosts the exhibit?
- How does the exhibit support that mission?
- How is the theme of the exhibition conveyed through the objects, design, and, if appropriate, subsidiary text?
- What kind of bias or perspective does the exhibition have?
- What were the curatorial objectives?
- Is the organization of the exhibition logical?
- Was the exhibition well researched and presented in an appealing fashion?
- What was emphasized or omitted and what impact does that have on the visitor?
- How does the design shape the visitor’s understanding or experience?
- What did the interpretive team do well? What areas could have been improved?
- Who is responsible for the content and design?

A few tips:

- Analyze, do not summarize. The summary of what you saw should be condensed to a paragraph—just enough to allow the reader to understand what the exhibition or site was all about.
- Read sample reviews in the *Journal of American History* or the *Public Historian*.
- Do not mention every artifact or tidbit of information that was conveyed to you. Be selective. Talk about highlights and lowlights. Use the Framework for Assessing Excellence Form to help you sort through things that are worthy of mentioning in your paper.
- Provide concrete evidence to support your argument and assertions.
- Do not feel that you have to organize your paper to mimic the layout of the exhibition or tour.

**Tech Specs:**

- Paper should be Times New Roman, 12-pt font, double spaced.
- Include the title and your name in the upper left corner.
- Include page numbers in the lower right corner.
- Use standard MS Word margins (1-inch top and bottom margins, 1.25-inch left and right margins).
- Indent the first line of each paragraph one-half inch (this is the standard if you select first line indention under paragraph formatting in Word).
- **DO NOT** triple or quadruple space between paragraphs.
- Use the *Chicago Manual of Style* for all citations.
The following rubric will be used to assess your papers.

A = Excellent. An excellent essay will
- Have a strong thesis (main point) that is clearly supported by an organized essay
- Provide excellent examples to support your thesis
- Show thorough comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading
- Demonstrate innovative ideas and approaches
- Have strong analyses of material arguments found in lectures, reading, and research
- Contextualize ideas and arguments to the overall historical period
- Have proper citations
- Be written clearly, with few errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation or usage

B = Good. A good essay will
- Have a valid thesis that is supported by a mostly well-organized essay
- Provide appropriate examples to support your thesis
- Demonstrate comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading
- Analyze the material and arguments found in lectures, reading, and research
- Connect ideas and arguments to the overall historical period
- Have proper citations with few mistakes
- Be written clearly, with minor errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, or usage

C = Satisfactory/Average. An average essay will
- Have a thesis with only a few flaws or incomplete support in the essay
- Provide examples to support your thesis
- Demonstrate basic comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading
- Reveal some incompleteness in the research
- Incompletely analyze the material and arguments found in lectures, reading, and research
- Incompletely connect ideas and arguments to the overall historical period
- Have improper citations
- Be written clearly, with some errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, or usage

D = Below Average/Barely Passing. A below-average essay will have one or more of the following major problems:
- A weak thesis, or one that is incompletely supported
- Incomplete or weak organization
- Weak examples that do not support the thesis
- Show minimal comprehension of the ideas presented in the class
- Show incomplete research
- Partially analyze material and arguments found in lectures, reading, and research
- Missing or incorrect citations
- Show lack of coherence, or many errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, or usage

F = Failing. A failing essay will receive an “F” if it meets any of the criteria below:
- Does not meet the minimum requirements for a D
- Shows evidence of plagiarism
- Does not fulfill the requirements of the assignment
- Contains an unacceptable amount of compositional errors
- Written in stream-of-consciousness or incoherent argumentation