

# History 300: The Practice of History

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M/W 1200-1445



This course is designed to expose students, particularly those with a major in history, to scholarly historical methods. A primary task will be to gather, read, assess and use a wide variety of primary sources. The course is also designed to foster skills in the critical reading of secondary sources. There will be a brief survey of the history of historical study as a discipline, and students will be introduced to a range of approaches historians have taken to the research and writing of history.

**Readings:** No textbooks are required for this course. Readings will consist of book chapters, scholarly articles, and primary sources. The readings will be delivered via Blackboard (depending on pending copyright clearances).

**Assessment:** This class is all about the practice of historical work. There will be a number of small written assignments that relate to historical methodologies we cover (35%), a book review (10%), and a primary-source driven research project (40%). There will NOT be a traditional midterm or a registrar-scheduled final exam. Students can also expect to do some (closely supervised) group work and to contribute to class discussion (15%).

The course has no prerequisites and is a requirement for history majors entering the program as of September, 2012.