

**HIST 600**  
**Introduction to**  
**Graduate Historical Study**

**Course Syllabus**  
**January 13, 2011**

Instructor: **Michael Welsh**  
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Office Hour: Thursdays, 4:30PM-5:30PM and by appointment

**Required Readings (available at the Book Stop, 16<sup>th</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue)**

Caroline Hoefflerle, *The Essential Historiography Reader* (2010).  
Peter Novick, *That Noble Dream: The "Objectivity Question" and the American Historical Profession* (1988).  
Mary Lynn Rampola, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* (2010).

**Goals and Objectives of Course**

Students will pursue two lines of discourse in this class: understanding how the history profession has evolved over time; and how students place themselves in the continuum of those changes. Activities include an overview of historical writing through the centuries; analysis of primary and secondary sources of students' research; and applications of technology and social media to the historical process.

**Assignments**

Listed below are exercises and readings for this class:

- Reading required texts and writing 10-12pp essays on their concept, sources, organization, and conclusion.
- Reading one text from the graduate reading list, negotiated in advance with the instructor. Writing of 5-7pp essay related to text. Discussion of reading in class.
- Reading of two scholarly journal articles (one from the years prior to 1960; one after 1960). Writing of 3-5pp essays on each article. Titles to be negotiated with instructor.
- Development of one PowerPoint presentation on student's historical research, to be delivered in class.
- Development of one video history project of student's choice, to be delivered in class.

- Selection of one document per week from student's research, or general interest in history, to be presented in class (no writing required).

### **Grading**

Students will be graded on each activity as follows:

- Required texts: 100 points each (total of 300 points).
- Scholarly journals: 25 points each (total of 50 points).
- PowerPoint presentation: 50 points.
- Video history project: 50 points.
- Document discussions: 50 points (10 documents).
- Classroom participation: 50 points
- Total points: 550

### **Plagiarism**

Students should do their own work. The first assignment that is plagiarized will receive a failing grade. Two plagiarized assignments results in termination from the class.

### **Schedule of Activities**

- Jan. 13: Introductions/discussion of reading list, model thesis prospectus, oral qualifying exams, etc.
- Jan. 20: Research tour of Michener Library (Room 303).  
Discussion of Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, ed., *Carl Becker: Every Man His Own Historian*.  
Discussion of Mary Jane Rampolla, 1-2.
- Jan. 27: Hoefflerle, Introduction, Chapters 1-3.  
Rampolla, 3-4.  
Documents discussion.
- Feb. 3: Hoefflerle, Chs. 4-6.  
Documents discussion  
Rampolla, 5-7.
- Feb. 10: Hoefflerle, Ch. 7.  
Documents discussion.
- Feb. 17: Journal reports (to 1960).  
Documents discussion.

- Feb. 24: Journal reports (since 1960).  
Documents discussion.  
Hoefflerle review due.
- Mar. 3: PowerPoints on historical research.  
Documents discussion.
- Mar. 10: Video history projects.  
Documents discussion.
- Mar. 17: Spring break.
- Mar. 24: Reading list book discussions.  
Documents discussion.
- Mar. 31: Professional societies/careers in history.  
Documents discussion.
- Apr. 7: No class (Phi Alpha Theta banquet).
- Apr. 14: Novick, Chs. 1-5.
- Apr. 21: Novick, Chs. 6-10.
- Apr. 28: Novick, Chs. 11-16.
- May 5: Novick paper due.