

HISTORY DEPARTMENT HIST 3000 Assessment – 15 responses Fall 2019

The Department of History's mission is *to train undergraduates to research, analyze, synthesize and communicate accurate conclusions about change over time by using the historical method. At the same time we aim to inculcate cultural literacy and provide the knowledge necessary for informed decision making by citizens of Utah, the United States and the world.*

Please assess how well HIST 3000 has addressed these goals. Be specific in your comments, if possible!

1. Research training

- Very well done. Talking about the different research methods and different tactics/approaches to research.
- I was able to progress in my understanding of how to carry out research methods. I also learned more about the archives. Overall, helped quite a bit in Research training.
- I learned how to find sources and didn't think of originally.
- Going to Special Collections was extremely helpful. I would have liked to do a few more research exercises such as finding a primary source from a secondary source.
- I really appreciated the Archive days. It made that section a lot less intimidating.
- Good, basic training on how to research certain topics—skimming books for info relevant to research rather than reading whole book, provided in-class time to meet with librarians and peers to find out more ways to research.
- Multiple visits to library w/ the mini-class from history expert Jennifer helped me a lot in finding sources.
- Really Good!
- Spent a lot of time learning how to properly look at sources and how to break down information which was very helpful.
- Fairly well. Very helpful when it came to finding primary sources.
- Fairly well, I left the course with a better understanding
- I felt like I definitely learned how to look for research better, however it was a self-taught process rather than an instructional process.
- The information was all basically useful, but very little was new information. This mostly felt like a class on how to cite using ?? which I could learn on my own out of the book.
- Like I said before, I think there could have been more focus on it for student's like me who haven't done a lot of research before.
- I came into this class with a fair bit of experience already, but the extra training on indexes like WorldCat was helpful.

2. Analysis of historical materials

- Discussing the different/possible biases was very helpful.
- I progressed in analyzing how I should look at different sources I have used in my various projects.
- With my topic it was more specific and harder to analyze. I didn't feel like I learned more about my sources.

- Good with secondary sources, but would have liked more help evaluating primary sources.
- I thought the literature we studied together was—well chosen. Especially Fiction in the Archives-I thought it useful for those topics that don't have a lot of primary sources.
- Asked relevant questions as to assigned topics studied for class. Critical thinking skills enhanced through consideration of these questions
- The visits to special collections were useful.
- Excellent! I feel comfortable in this now!
- Learning how to skim through larger pieces and get a general gist of the info was helpful.
- Very helpful information learned on how to get primary sources in the archives.
- I feel like my skills improved.
- I felt that my professor was very knowledgeable about how to analyze sources and explained to us effectively how to analyze these materials.
- We definitely touched on this and different historical methods, but not necessarily usefully.
- Good I enjoyed the fiction in the archives book a lot. I think it taught me a lot about how to use sources.
- For me, I thought this was the most helpful part of the class. I thought I had a good handle on this already, but there was plenty of new things I learned here.

3. Synthesis of historical materials

- I also improved in summarizing and understanding historical materials.
- We did bring together sources to develop a whole vision of true history we learned.
- I don't know what this means.
- Forming research questions that have not been looked at before helped to form basic skill of synthesis of historical materials. Looking at both primary and secondary sources to form hypotheses on topics, rather than taking it at face value.
- Lots of different methods to research and ways to better understand how to read sources better.
- Not so sure.
- At times it felt difficult to link all the individual work back to the main project or bigger picture.
- Kind of helpful. I do not feel confident in this.
- Not so much on the progression front.
- We were able to compare historical materials to different disciplines content areas.
- The readings and home assignments demonstrated how to this pretty well.
- Reasonably well. There was good discussion in class.

4. Communication of conclusions

- Refined through peer edits and close analyzation and prior thesis.
- I was able to improve in how I summarized my research and summarizing it in the research paper.
- I think we talked about historical conclusions well. We used the historical method to figure out the key points of our materials to determine a conclusion.
- I didn't feel that I quite learned how to communicate conclusions because we didn't actually have to answer our final historical questions.

- I'm still struggling with communicating conclusions I form in regards to topics I research.
- Conclusions were kind of broad, but that what our conclusions are.
- Very good!
- As this is a class that is preparing you for another class, the value of the things you learn might not come until later.
- Very well. By observing my peers I was able to draw inspiration for my own conclusion.
- My ability stayed about the same.
- I felt like there was nothing taught about how to make a conclusion about our findings.
- We focused a lot on the earlier stages of research but vs. little on this.
- Poorly. I don't have any graded papers back. With no feedback, I don't know where I stand. Expectations regarding final presentation were not well communicated.

5. Cultural literacy

- Discussing bias, strategies, and techniques helps with the correct.
- I learned more about different cultures within the topic I studied, as well as how they interacted with each other
- I feel like we did go into the culture of our sources well and we gained knowledge that helped our topics.
- I'm not sure what this means.
- I thought the final days were good for looking at different historical methods. I think that increases cultural literacy.
- I honestly don't understand what this means.
- The books we read in class more difficult to get through, but they were good examples of different types of research.
- Also very good!
- Some of the best parts of the class was learning about different areas of history and how they can be looked at from different angles.
- Kind of helpful. Do not feel confident.
- Not so much.
- I'm not sure what this means.
- I don't know that this even come up, even ??
- Neutral. I feel like I came in with high cultural literacy.