

HISTORY 660

Professor Jules Tygiel

Fall, 2006

Science 224, 338-1119

<http://bss.sfsu.edu/tygiel/hist660/default.htm>

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Tuesdays: 4:10-6:45

Office Hours: TH 2-3, W 3-4

COMPUTER METHODOLOGY FOR HISTORIANS

The purpose of this course is to introduce history graduate and undergraduate students to the ways in which computers are currently being used for historical research and teaching. Among the topics that will be covered are: using the Word Outline facility to organize bibliographies and research notes; library searches in on-campus and off-campus facilities; communicating with other historians via e-mail and e-mail lists; finding historical materials on the Internet; creating a personal web page; writing a research paper utilizing archival materials on the web, and using the Internet in the classroom. All students are required to have e-mail accounts. If you do not yet have an e-mail account you may acquire one from the university.

History 660 will serve as a prerequisite to History 661, *Introduction to SPSS*, which deals more specifically with databases and quantitative research. Together, History 660 and History 661 fulfill the Alternative Skills requirement for history graduate students. Since the skills acquired will serve students well throughout their graduate education, and since this course is only offered during the Fall semester, we recommend that students take History 660 in their first semester of enrollment.

Due to the nature of computers and the Internet, this course is constantly changing. The pace of the course will be dictated by the relative computer skills of the participants and ongoing changes in the Internet. Some topics may take more time and others less than scheduled. Feel free to make suggestions, contribute your own expertise, and participate in the ongoing creation of the course. In general, the first two hours of the course (4:10-6:00) will be devoted to lecture. The final 45 minutes will be a laboratory session where students can apply the skills learned and work one-on-one with the instructor. All students should have a Zip Disk or Memory Stick to store their files.

TEXTS: Since most books on the Internet are outdated as soon as they appear and since much of the work is either obvious or available on help screens, I have opted not to assign a formal text for this course. For those of you who are not familiar with using Microsoft Word for Windows, you might want to buy one of the many manuals available at the bookstore. There are several articles available online.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Each student will also be required to write a research paper from a web-based archive, create a personal web page, compile a thorough (at least 100-source) bibliography on a topic of their choice using sources from various Internet locales, and create interactive classes. Bibliographies must be sorted both alphabetically and by source. Instructions for the web pages, bibliographies and interactive classes will be provided in separate handouts.

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS SCHEDULE

August 29

Introduction to BSS Computer Lab/ The World Web

Assignment: Secure an e-mail account and send a message to the instructor informing him of your e-mail address. Create a class distribution list and send a message to the class.

September 5

Searching the World Wide Web

Readings: Michael O' Malley and Roy Rosenzweig, "Brave New World Or Blind Alley? American History on the World Wide Web"

David A. Bell, "The Bookless Future: What the Internet is Doing to Scholarship."

Carl Smith, "Can You Do Serious History on the Web?"

September 12

Sources on the Web: How Reliable Are They?

Reading: Wilkinson, Bennett, and Oliver, "Evaluation Criteria and Indicators of Quality for Internet Resources"

Kelly Schrum, "Surfing for the Past: How to Separate the Good from the Bad."

Roy Rosenzweig "Can History Be Open Source? Wikipedia and the Future of the Past."

September 19

Archives and Newspapers on the Web/ Research Assignment/Citing Internet Sources

September 26

Using the Word Outline Facility for Research and Bibliographies

Assignment: Access the Reagan.DOC file and make the assigned revisions to it. Complete Atomic Bomb assignment.

October 3

History List Servers

Assignment: Sign up to an H-Net list; forward a message that you have received to the instructor.

October 10

Searching for Books: Investigator, Melvyl, Library of Congress

October 17

Searching for Articles: CD-Rom Databases

Assignment: Do a bibliographic search on any topic and E-mail results to instructor.

October 24

Creating Your Own Web Page

Paula Petrik, "Top Ten Mistakes in Academic Web Design"

Research Assignment Due

October 31

Creating Your Own Web Page—2

November 7

Creating Your Own Web Page—3

November 14

Power Point/BlackBoard

November 21

Thanksgiving Break (No Class)

November 28

Using Computers in the Classroom

Michael O'Malley, "Building Effective Course Sites: Some Thoughts on Design for Academic Work"

December 5

Creating Online Classes

Bibliography Assignment Due

December 12

Creating Online Classes--2

December 19

Completed Web Page and Online Classes Due