Bemidji State University

HST 4500: Historical Methods

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: None

Historical Methods explores the work of historians and gives students an introduction to several subdisciplines of history and the tools, sources, and techniques they use, as well as practice in the processes of research, analysis of sources, organization and citation, interpretation of primary and secondary materials, and presentation and historical writing. Students who are preparing to write a thesis will produce a prospectus. Other students may apply their learning in this course toward a research paper in another, 3000-level course. Prerequisite(s): Junior or Senior status.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/06/2021 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. How to analyze primary sources
2. How to detect source bias and assess reliability
3. How to analyze secondary sources
4. Revisionism
5. How to research and use archival sources
6. Tools for organization and citation
7. Digital sources and research
8. Oral history
9. Cultural artifacts, maps, images
10. Interpreting non-print evidence
11. Interpreting print evidence
12. Research ethics
13. How to structure historical narratives
14. How to construct historical arguments
15. Social history
16. Political history
17. Intellectual history
18. Cultural history
19. Environmental history
20. Gender and power analysis
21. Microhistory
22. Museums and public history
23. Biography
D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)
   1. practice the processes of research, analysis of sources, organization and citation, interpretation of primary and secondary materials, presentation, and historical writing.
   2. analyze several subdisciplines of history, including cultural, social, economic, environmental, intellectual, and political history.
   3. analyze the tools, sources, and techniques historians use to study the past.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies
   None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
   As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
   None noted