

History Writers' Workshop HIST 100W

Fall 2025 Sections 01, 02 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/17/2025

Contact Information

Professor Greg Tomlinson

Email: gregory.tomlinson@sjsu.edu

Office: DMH 217

Office Hours: T/TR, 11 am - 12 pm and 2-3pm or by appointment (in person or Zoom)

Course Information

This class meets in-person from 9-10:15 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Clark Hall (CL) 306.

Course Description and Requisites

Development of skills required for the art and practice of historical research and writing. Library research, oral reports, and written exercises dealing with a variety of historical problems.

Writing in the Disciplines: Satisfies the CSU Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) if passed with "C" or better.

Prerequisite(s): HIST 99 required or Department permission. A3 or equivalent second semester composition course (with a grade of "C-" or better); completion of core GE; and upper division standing. Or Graduate or Postbaccalaureate level. Allowed Declared Majors: History and Social Science

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

You are expected to arrive to class on time. Do not use cellphones, texting, or email in class.

Course Format

This class will be taught in person. During class, I will introduce material and students will participate in active discussion, writing and analysis.

Class Communications

Course materials (the syllabus, guidelines for assignments) may be found on the course website on Canvas. I will communicate with students by email, through Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking email for important messages about the class.

Technology Requirements

Students will need to access to an electronic device for access to the class Canvas page for reading assignments, writing prompts and paper submissions. In addition, we will often work on writing, peer editing and revising in class, for which you will need a laptop. The SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students. Details are available at <https://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/classroom-tech/equipment-loaning/index.php>

If you have difficulties bringing a laptop to class, please let me know immediately.

Program Information

Writing in the Disciplines (WID) courses develop students' abilities to communicate effectively in their major course of study and in their careers. With an emphasis on critical thinking, these upper-division core courses advance students' understanding of the genres, audiences, and purposes of college writing while preparing them for successful communication in their chosen professions. Completing Writing in the Disciplines with a C or better is an SJSU graduation requirement.

Writing in the Disciplines Learning Outcomes Upon successful completion of a Writing in the Disciplines course, students should be able to:

1. explain, analyze, develop, and critique ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse;
2. organize and develop complete discipline-specific texts and other documents for both professional and general audiences, using appropriate editorial and citation standards; and
3. locate, organize, and synthesize information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and to communicate that purpose in writing;
4. produce discipline-specific written work that demonstrates upper-division proficiency in language use, grammar, and clarity of expression.

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 8000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.

Course Goals

This is a research and writing course for history majors. Students will learn core research, writing, and editing skills for use in the historical discipline.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO 1: Students will learn about different types of sources, how to analyze them, and then use historical evidence in the service of an argument.

CLO 2: Essay writing is the core component of this course. Students will learn how to construct theses, topic sentences, and how to defend their arguments.

CLO 3: Students will assist each other in editing and proofreading essays. The object of this lesson is to reinforce proper grammar, syntax, and citation practices. The goal is to provide positive and helpful assistance.

CLO 4: HIST 100W is a writing course. Writing, editing, source analysis, and constant revision are crucial to the historical process. Students will complete three papers, assist each other in editing and proofreading their peers' papers, and will present their ideas to the class. These repeated practices serve as the foundation for history students' ability to conduct historical research, writing, and the clear presentation of their ideas.

Course Materials

Schivelbusch, Wolfgang. *Three New Deals: Reflections on Roosevelt's America, Mussolini's Italy, and Hitler's Germany, 1933-1939*. London: Picador Books, 2007.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Ninth Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.

All other materials will be posted to the Canvas page by the instructor.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Students will write incremental assignments to help build analytical and writing skills. Assignments range from drafts, outlines, and peer feedback reports to research papers, revisions, and class presentations.

The following is a list of all major assignments:

AI Contract - Read and Agree to Terms of AI Writing Conduct Policy - (20 points)

In-Class Writing Exercises - Ten, Short Writing and Editing Exercises - (100 points total)

Source Comparison Paper (Paper One) - (50 points)

Paper One Draft - (25 points)

Schivelbusch Quiz - (10 points)

Schivelbusch Notes, Part 1 - (10 points)

Schivelbusch Notes, Part 2 - (10 points)

Thesis-Driven, Thematic Argument Paper (Paper Two) - (100 points)

Midterm Examination - (50 points)

Paper Two Draft - (25 points)

Revisions Assignments - (25 points each, 50 points total)

Self-Guided Research Paper - (125 points)

Half-Draft - (25 points)

Full Draft - (25 points)

Annotated Bibliography - (25 points)

Paper Three Abstract - (50 points)

Paper Presentation Script - (25 points)

Paper Presentation - (75 Points)

Total: 800 points

✓ Grading Information

Grading Information

All submitted work must be completed by each student. Papers cannot be written by another person or using AI-based writing assistants.

Student work is evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Grammar, syntax, and spelling
- Argumentation and sourcing

- Formatting and appropriate use of Turabian citations

Assignment percentage grades are as follows:

A+ 98-100 A 93-97 A- 90-93

B+ 88-89 B 83-87 B- 80-83

C+ 78-79 C 73-77 C- 70-73

D+ 68-69 D 63-67 D- 60-63

F 59 or Lower

Breakdown

Grading Information

My goal is to make the grading process as clear to you as possible. Descriptions of how assignments and exams will be graded can be found in the assignment or exam instructions, or in the associated grading rubric.

Here are some facts about how your grades will be determined in this course:

How your grade is calculated: Each assignment in this course is given a point value. Once the assignment is scored, the points you earn are applied to your final course grade, which will be determined by the number of points that you earn out of the 800 points possible.

Grading turnaround: My goal is to return your assignments to you as soon as possible after you submit them, and you can expect that I will grade your assignments within two weeks after they are submitted, although in most cases they will be returned to you sooner.

Final course grade: Your final course grade will be the grade that is shown on Canvas after the final assignment of the semester is completed and graded. There will be no extra credit or extra work offered at the end of the semester to raise your grade, nor will your grade be rounded up.

Your final grade will be assigned based on the following scale:

784+ pts = A+ 744-783 pts = A 720-743 pts = A-

704-719 pts = B+ 664-703 pts = B 640-663 pts = B-

624-639 pts = C+ 584-623 = C 560-583 pts = C-

544-559 = D+ 504-543 = D 480-503 pts = D-

479 = F

Guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found in the following two university policies: University Syllabus Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>) and University Attendance and Participation policy F15-12 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

Guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found in the following two university policies: University Syllabus Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>) and University Attendance and Participation policy F15-12 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\) \(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information \(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

he class will meet in person on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9-10:15 pm in CL 306.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	T/TR 8/19-8/21	Tuesday: NO CLASS Thursday: Course Introduction <i>*Assignment Due at 10:15 pm: AI Contract</i>
2	T/TR 8/25-8/27	Tuesday: Reading and Writing for Historians Thursday: From First Impressions to Source Analysis
3	T/TR 9/2- 9/4	Tuesday: NO CLASS Thursday: Context, Background and Source Investigation

4	T/TR 9/9- 9/11	Tuesday: Historical Approaches and Outlining a Paper Thursday: Source Comparison and Thesis Writing
5	T/TR 9/16- 9/18	Tuesday: Project Planning for Research Paper Writing Thursday: Peer Review of First Paper <i>*Assignment Due at 9 am: Full Draft of Paper One</i>
6	T/TR 9/23- 9/25	Tuesday: Reading and Note Taking for Historians: "Gutting" a Book <i>*Assignment Due at 9 am: Paper One</i> Thursday: Discussion of Schivelbusch, <i>Three New Deals</i> , Part 1 <i>*Assignment Due at 9 am: Schivelbusch Notes, Part 1</i>
7	T/TR 9/30- 10/2	Tuesday: Quiz and Discussion of Schivelbusch, <i>Three New Deals</i> , Part 2: Organizing and "Curating" Notes, Paper 2 Assignment <i>*Assignment due at 9 am: Schivelbusch Notes, Part 2</i> Thursday: Review of Best Practices for Research and Writing History Papers/Research and Writing Day <i>*Assignment Due at 9 am: Paper One Revisions</i>
8	T/TR 10/7- 10/9	Tuesday: Research and Writing Day Thursday: Full Draft Check-In/Peer Review Day <i>*Assignment Due at 9 am: Full Draft of Paper Two</i>
9	T/TR 10/14- 10/16	Tuesday: Personal Reflection, Writing Review, and Revisions <i>*Assignment Due at 9 am: Paper Two</i> Thursday: Midterm Examination (Bring Unmarked Test Booklet)

10	T/TR 10/19- 10/23	<p>Tuesday: Paper 3 Assignment/Lecture/and Research Workshop</p> <p>Thursday: Research and Writing Day/Annotated Bibliographies</p>
11	T/TR 10/28- 10/30	<p>Tuesday: Peer Review: Assess Primary and Secondary Sources/Survey Review</p> <p><i>*Assignment Due at 9 am: Annotated Bibliography</i></p> <p>Thursday: Peer Review: Introduction and Working Thesis</p> <p><i>*Assignment Due at 9 am: Paper Two Revisions</i></p>
12	T/TR 11/4- 11/6	<p>Tuesday: Peer Review: Draft Progress Check-In</p> <p>Thursday: Peer Review: Half Draft Check-In</p> <p><i>*Assignment Due at 9 am: Half Draft of Paper Three</i></p>
13	T/TR 11/11- 11/13	<p>Tuesday: Independent Work Day (NO CLASS) - Check-In As Needed</p> <p>Thursday: Peer Review: Full Draft Check-In</p> <p><i>*Assignment Due at 9 am: Full Draft of Paper Three</i></p>
14	T/TR 11/18- 11/20	<p>Tuesday: Paper Abstracts</p> <p>Thursday: Planning, Scripting, and Giving Presentations</p> <p><i>*Assignment Due at 10:15 am: Presentation Script</i></p>
15	T/TR 11/25- 11/27	<p>Tuesday: NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Break</p> <p>Thursday: NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Break</p>
16	T/TR 12/2- 12/4	<p>Tuesday: Paper Presentations</p> <p>Thursday: Paper Presentations</p>

17	T	Tuesday: 8:30-10:30 am Session: Paper Presentations
	12/11	<i>*Paper Three and Abstract Due at 11:59 pm on 12/12</i>