

**History 6685**  
**Research Seminar in State and Local History**  
University of West Georgia  
Spring 2008

**Instructor and Class Meetings:**

Dr. Joe Anderson, Department of History, University of West Georgia, 678-839-6043, jlanders@westga.edu. Office hours are T-Th, 1-4 PM at 207 Pafford or by appointment at 3221 TLC.

Class meets Thursdays, 5:30-8:00 PM at 3205 TLC. There will be several weeks when, in lieu of evening meetings, students will schedule a meeting with the instructor to discuss their projects one-on-one.

**Purpose and Description**

This course provides an opportunity for students to gain experience in state and local history research and an appreciation of the ways in which historians conduct original research. Students will read some examples of state and local history as well as works on the practice of local history, write a conference paper based on original research, create a short topic index from one year of a Carrollton newspaper, and conduct an oral history interview. Students will also critique each others work.

**Readings:**

- Kellee Blake, "First in the Path of the Firemen: The Fate of the 1890 Population Census" *Prologue* 28 (Spring 1996). Available on line at *Prologue Magazine* website.
- Carol Kammen, *On Doing Local History: Reflections on What Local Historians Do, Why, and What It Means*, chapter 1.
- David E. Kyvig and Myron A. Marty, *Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You, Second Edition*.
- James C. Malin, "The Turnover of Farm Population in Kansas" *Kansas Historical Quarterly* (November 1935): 339-372.
- Rebecca Sharpless, "The History of Oral History" (chapter 1), in *History of Oral History: Foundations and Methodology*, edited by Thomas L. Charlton, Lois E. Myers, and Rebecca Sharpless.
- Barbara W. Sommer and Mary Kay Quinlan, chapters 7 and 9, in *Oral History Manual*.
- Valerie Raleigh Yow, "Legalities and Ethics" (chapter 4), in *Recording Oral History: A Practical Guide for Social Scientists*.
- Amanda Epperson, "I Devise and Bequeath: Property and Inheritance among the Scottish Highlanders in Scottish Settlement, Columbiana, Ohio" *Northeast Ohio Journal of History* 3(1) Spring 2005, available on line at the journal website.

**Assignments**

*Research Project/Conference Paper*

Students will select a research topic, create an annotated bibliography of relevant secondary accounts, and locate potential sources. They will identify two historical conferences (call for proposals) that would be potential and appropriate venues for

presenting this research. Students will research and write an eight to ten page original research paper and present their papers to the class as well as critique and evaluate other student's work.

The conference paper will be between eight and ten pages in length with sources cited according to the Chicago Manual of Style (see Kate Turabian's book). Students will email their papers to all students by March 27. Each student should read all the papers but will only be required to prepare written comments for one other student.

#### *Oak Mountain School Oral History Project*

The other components of the course include conducting an oral history interview to complement a research project on behalf of the College of Education. Each student will conduct one interview and prepare a transcription of the interview that will be archived at the Center for Public History and turned over to the College of Education.

#### *Carrollton New Deal Newspaper Index*

Each students will compile a short newspaper index of the New Deal in one year of the *Carroll County Times* newspaper. The newspaper is available on microfilm at the Ingram Library. This index may serve as the basis for future public history projects at the Center for Public History.

#### *Participation*

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss assignments.

#### **Grades**

Oral History and Transcription	20 points
Newspaper Index	20
Conference Paper	100
Annotated bibliography	10 points
First draft	10
Final draft	80
Critique	20
Participation	30
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Total	200 points

Course grades will be on a ten point scale: 100-90% A; 89-80% B, 79-70% C; etc.

#### **Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is expected of all students. Students should be careful to avoid plagiarism. Further information is available on the UWG website. Plagiarism will result in an F for the course.

## Course Outline and Assignments

January 10 Class Orientation and Introduction

January 17 Researching State and Local History

*Reading Due:* Kyvig and Marty, *Nearby History*, preface and chapters 1-3; Kammen, *On Doing Local History*, chapter 1.

\*Research topic due and identify the Call for Papers

January 24 Oral History

*Reading Due:* Kyvig and Marty, chapter 6; Sharpless, “The History of Oral History” (chapter 1); Yow, “Legalities and Ethics” (chapter 4); Sommer and Quinlan, chapters 7 and 9.

January 31 Manuscripts

Class will meet at Special Collections, Ingram Library with Suzanne Durham.

\*Annotated bibliography due

February 2 Trip to Georgia Archives and National Archives--SE Branch

February 7 Government Records

*Reading Due:* Epperson, “I Devise and Bequeath: Property and Inheritance among the Scottish Highlanders in Scottish Settlement, Columbiana, Ohio”; Blake, “First in the Path of the Firemen”; Malin, “The Turnover of Farm Population in Kansas”; Kyvig and Marty, chapter 5.

February 14 No Meeting (Credit for field trip)

February 21 Individual Meetings

February 28 Progress Reports and Discussion

Reading Due: Kyvig and Marty, chapters 7-12.

March 6 Individual Meetings

March 13 Individual Meetings

\*Oak Mountain oral history interview and transcription due

March 20 No Class—Spring Break

March 27 Progress Reports and Discussion

\*First draft of conference paper due to instructor and classmates

April 3 Individual Meetings

\*Papers returned to students

April 10 No Class

April 17      Research Presentations and Discussion  
\*Critiques due

April 24      Research Presentations and Discussion  
\*Critiques due

May 1         Reading Day

May 8         Last Class  
\*Final papers due  
\*Topical newspaper index due