

Professor Jeanne Petit
Office Hours:
Monday, 3:00-4:00
Thursdays: 1:30-3:00

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HIST 141
The Historian's Vocations

Do you love history, but struggle to answer when people ask you, "What are you going to do with that history major or minor?" In this course, we will examine the ways the study of history can become the foundation of your larger vocations in life, whether in a career or as a civically-engaged member of your community.

Goals of the Course:

- Think about how we can use historical knowledge to understand and reflect on the modern day, and write your own historical analysis of a contemporary issue.
- Consider how the skills you will develop as a historian (reading critically, researching widely, writing effectively) provide a foundation for a life of meaning and purpose as well as for a variety of careers.
- Learn how to communicate, in writing and speaking, your historical skills in a resume, job letter, or speaking
- Develop a plan for your own vocational discernment at Hope College and beyond.

Grading Criteria

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|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Short Assignments: | 50 points |
| Essay Proposal: | 20 points |
| Historical Essay: | 100 points |
| Initial Interview Report: | 20 points |
| Interview Written Analysis: | 80 points |
| Resume Assignment: | 40 points |
| Job Letter Assignment | 40 points |
| Vocation Assignment | <u>50 points</u> |
| Total | 400 points |

Specific information about each assignment will be on the Moodle page for this class.

Grading Scale

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|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 376-400 = A | 336-351 = B | 296-311 = C | 256-271 = D |
| 360-375 = A- | 320-335 = B- | 280-295 = C- | 240-255 = D- |
| 352-359 = B+ | 312-319 = C+ | 272-279 = D+ | 239 and below = F |

Class Participation

This class will include a large amount of class discussion, and full participation from everyone is necessary for our discussions to succeed. Therefore, students will be graded on class participation. Everyone must read assignments carefully, think critically about the

assigned readings, and be willing to share their thoughts on what they found interesting, boring, persuasive or problematic. Further, an interest in and respect for other students' opinions is essential! Listen to what your colleagues are saying, and take their opinions seriously. If you are shy or have a hard time getting to say what you want, please discuss this with me! Discussions only work well when **everybody** participates. Be sure to bring all the assigned readings with you to each class.

A Note about Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class. You can miss **two** classes (excused or unexcused absence) without penalty. After that, 5 points will be deducted from the class grade for each class missed. Also, tardiness is one of my pet peeves. I will understand if you are late to class once or twice. If, however, you are habitually late, your class participation grade will be lowered. If there are issues with which you are dealing that might cause problems in this regard, please see the note about the Disability and Accessibility policy.

A Note about Academic Honesty

Students are expected to conduct themselves in this class in ways that meet the standards of Hope's policy of academic integrity. Falsifying papers or plagiarizing papers will not be tolerated. Plagiarism entails representing the work of others as your own, without proper citations. Minor plagiarism (of a few sentences to a paragraph) can result in an "F" for the paper. Major plagiarism (more than one paragraph) can result in a grade of "F" for the course.

Disability and Accessibility Policy

Hope College is committed to providing equitable learning environments. If you have a temporary or permanent condition that requires accommodation (conditions include but are not limited to: mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health related), you may call Disability and Accessibility Resources at 616-395-7830 to meet with a Disability and Accessibility Resources specialist or visit the DAR website <https://hope.edu/offices/disability-services/> to request accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Disability and Accessibility Resources. Accommodations may be requested at any point in the semester but you are encouraged to initiate the process early as accommodations will not be granted retroactively. You and your instructors will receive an email from Disability and Accessibility Resources verifying accommodations that have been approved.

Week One

October 18: Introduction: Why History?

Week Two

October 21: Historical Thinking

Fea, Chapter 1

Careers for History Majors, 10-14

October 23: Interview Workshop

October 25: Essay Assignment Workshop

Historical Essays

Week Three

October 28: History as an Analytical Tool

Fea, Chapter 2

Careers for History Majors, 19-20

Historical Essays

October 30: History and Citizenship

Fea, Chapter 6

Careers for History Majors, 24-25

Proposal Due by 5:00

November 1: Meet to Discuss Proposals

Week Four

November 4: First Person Monday

Initial Interview Report Due

November 6: History and Your Career Path

Fea, Ch. 8

Careers for History Majors, 16-17; 21-22; 26-33

November 8: First-person Friday

Week Five

November 11: Boerigter Center presentation: Resumes and Job Letters

November 13: Essay Check in Day

November 15: First-person Friday

Week Six

November 18: Boerigter Center presentation: Vocational Experiences

Job Letter/Resume due

November 20: Thinking through Vocation

Selection from Bill Burnett and Dale Evans, *Designing Your Life*

November 22: First-Person Friday

Essay due by 5:00

Week Seven

November 25: Faith and History

Fea, Chapter 4 and 5

November 27: **Vocation Report Due**

Week Eight

December 2: Historical Transformations

Fea, Chapter 7 and Epilogue

December 4: Interview Reports

Interview Assignment Due

December 6: Final Thoughts

Second Version of the Essay Due