

History 4990

Race, Gender and Empire: 1898

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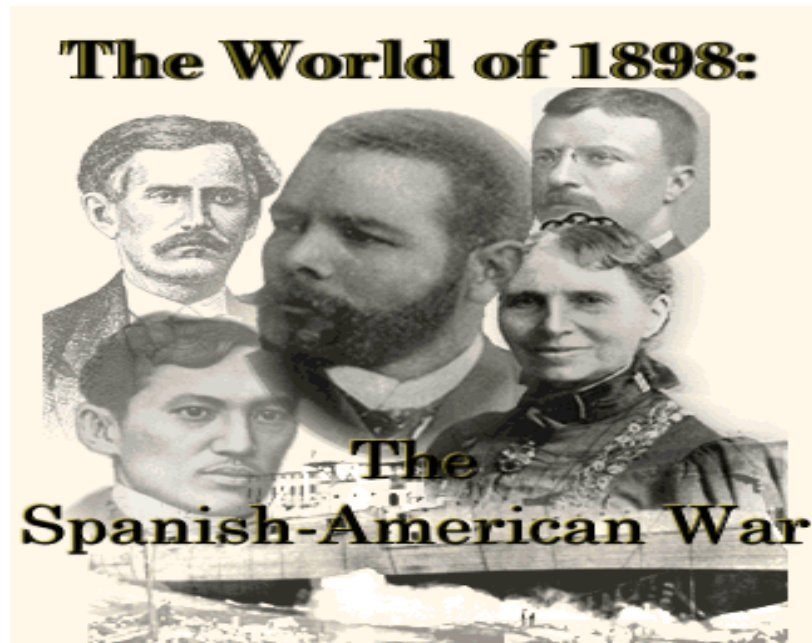
Course Description

History 4990 provides a systematic step-by-step plan as well as peer workshops to help student conduct hands-on research and write up their findings in sparkling prose. Through your own intensive archival truffles and our radical history workshops, you will produce a 20-to-25 page paper based on primary sources—a paper that makes an original contribution to historical knowledge. This is no easy task, so I expect students to make this “capstone” course your top priority this semester. Archival research is one of life’s great pleasures—but only if you give it the time it deserves.

Race, Gender, and Empire: 1898. Your Research Topic

The relationships between racial and gender configurations and America’s imperial expansion will provide the focus for most students’ research papers. Although I strongly encourage you to concentrate on the dawn on the American empire in the U.S. or Latin America, students with considerable background in another period of history should feel free to pitch their project to me. As well, students with expertise in another area of history should pursue a topic in keeping with their interests. Last year, for example, a student wrote a terrific paper on the Episcopal Church’s stance on the War of 1898. Students who elect this later option, however, need to work on some aspect of the War of 1898. To help you choose a topic and develop a pithy research question that animates your explorations, we open the course with two of the best practitioners in the field: Louis Perez and Kristin Hoganson. During the first

third or so of the semester, we will also grapple with the nuts-and-bolts of the research process and learn about the wealth of primary sources available in UGA's collections. In the later part of the semester, the class will become a history workshop where all of us will work together to improve everyone's project.



Course Logistics

A seminar course is only as good as its most daunted member, so I expect everyone to come to every class prepared to delve into the major issues and questions raised by the primary sources and our secondary readings. While I welcome office visits at any point, several one-on-one consultations are built into the syllabus to make sure no one's concerns fester. Most of our class time will be spent in discussions based on close textual exegesis of the course readings and your own research. You should always bring the course materials with you to class.



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Your Grade:

- ✓ Active class participation, including attendance at individual tutorials, weekly quizzes, active participation in our discussions, and small group work: **20 percent**. Please be sure to read the syllabus carefully on this point. For example, if you fail to show up for a tutorial, I will lower your final course grade by half a letter. If you miss more than one class meeting, I will lower your final grade by a full letter. Because we meet infrequently, there will be no exceptions to these rules.

- ✓ Two paragraphs on your chosen research topic, including a thesis question, a preliminary hypothesis, and a paragraph about the primary sources (documents) you will be working with: **10 percent**. Due Tuesday, 3 February by 5 p.m. to 301c Leconte. If you do not turn in this assignment by the due date, I will drop you from the course. I am happy to accept papers early if you have a conflict with the due date.

- ✓ A research paper prospectus with a clear thesis statement, an annotated bibliography, and a detailed, four-page outline of your research paper: **10 percent**. Due Thursday, 12 February by 5 p.m. to 301c Leconte. If you do not turn in this assignment by the due date, I will have no choice but to drop you from the course. I am happy to accept papers early if you have a conflict with the due date.

- ✓ A ten-page draft of your research paper and follow-up visit to my office: **20 percent**. Due Tuesday, 3 March. If you do not turn in this assignment by the due date, I will have to drop you from the course. Please keep in mind that I only accept hard copies of papers, not email attachments.

- ✓ A twenty to twenty-five page research paper due on Thursday, 23 April: **40 percent**. If you do not turn in this assignment on time, I will lower your final grade by a full letter. There will be no exceptions to this rule. So, someone with an A for the course who turned in the final paper late would receive a B for the course.

I do not accept papers or other assignments sent via email attachment. You must turn in a hard copy to my office to receive credit for the assignment.

Course books:

All three course books are for sale at the bookstores as well as on reserve at the main library. Please see me early in the semester if neither of these options works for you.

Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood*.

Louis Perez, *The War of 1898*

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*



Reading and Writing Schedule:

Thursday, 8 January. Introduction to the Course: How to Write a Simply Smashing Research Paper in One Semester. Discuss Howard Zinn's "The Use and Abuse of History." This short article was emailed to you on Tuesday evening.

Tuesday, 13 January. Class meets in the library with research specialist Dr. Jill Severn for an introduction to the primary sources housed in UGA's libraries and archives. Please meet at 2 p.m. in the Russell Library, which is right across from Leconte Hall in the Basement of the regular library.

Thursday, 15 January. Read: Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood*, introduction and chapters 1-2. Please note that there will be a ten-minute quiz on the Hoganson reading AND the Rampolla reading guide. As always, you should bring all of the readings with you to class, in this case both the Hoganson and the Rampolla books. The Rampolla pages for today: 70-88.

Tuesday, 20 January. Read: Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood*, chapters 3-5. Please note that there will be a ten minute quiz on the Hoganson reading and the Rampolla writing guide. Bring both books to class! Read Rampolla, pp. 96-108.

Thursday, 22 January. History Workshop I. What is a Research Question and How to Analyze a Primary Source. Read: Louis Perez, *The War of 1898*, first half. Quiz on Perez and Rampolla. Rampolla, pp. 9-14.

Tuesday, 27 January. Lecture and Film: 1898. Please note that you should be working in the library to find primary sources for your final paper. Your research topic statement is due next Tuesday! Read: Louis Perez, *The War of 1898*, second half. Quiz on Perez and Rampolla. Read Rampolla, pp. 44-52 and re-read 81-82 and 84-89.

Thursday, 29 January. Lecture and Film: 1898. Quiz on the Rampolla writing guide, pp. 61-72.

Tuesday, 3 February. No Class Today. Your short two paragraphs on your research topic are **due to my office by 5 p.m.** Remember: your two paragraphs should include a thesis question and a preliminary hypothesis as well as a paragraph explaining the primary sources you will be consulting. Please come see me during my office hours if you need help choosing a topic. What is a thesis question? For example, if you are interested in finding out about African American soldiers in 1898, you might pose the question, "Why did African Americans participate in the War of 1898?"

Thursday, 5 February. Please come to class prepared to discuss your topic and the primary sources you will be consulting. **History Workshop II: Evidencing an Argument.** Please bring your Perez book to class. Today we will organize four research teams for the semester. Read Rampolla, pp. 49-60.

Tuesday, 10 February. No Class Today. You should be working on your research prospectus, which is due this Thursday, 12 February.

Thursday, 12 February. No class today. Your research paper prospectus is due to my office by 5 p.m today. Your prospectus should have a clear thesis statement, an annotated bibliography of at least four secondary sources, a complete list of the documents you have been consulting, and a detailed four-page outline of your paper. What constitutes a detailed outline? I don't care one whit whether your outline is organized with roman numerals or with letters or with plain old numbers, but it must outline your entire paper and note what primary source you will be relying on in each section of the paper. You might want to think about producing one page of outline for each of your four sections of five-pages each.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR A TUTORIAL WITH ME NEXT WEEK. THERE WILL BE A SIGN-UP SHEET ON MY OFFICE DOOR, 301C Leconte.

Tuesday, 17 February. Individual Tutorials. Be sure to sign up on the sheet on my office door. Please note that if you fail to schedule or attend an individual tutorial, your final grade for the course will drop half a letter grade. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Thursday, 19 February. Individual Tutorials. If you fail to attend an individual tutorial this week, your final course grade will drop a half letter grade.

Research!

Thursday, 26 February. History Workshop III. Please bring two copies of your eight-page draft of your paper to class today for peer editing. Failure to arrive on time with an eight-page paper will lower your final grade for the course by half a letter. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Tuesday, 3 March, 5 p.m., 301c Leconte Hall. A ten-page polished draft of your research paper is due today to my office. There is no class meeting today. Late papers will not be accepted, so please plan accordingly. If you do not turn in a ten-page paper by 5 p.m. today, I will have to drop you from the course. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Remember to sign up for an individual tutorial after spring break!

Tuesday, 17 March. Individual Tutorials. Sign up at 301c Leconte Hall. Failure to attend will result in the loss of half a letter on your final grade.

Thursday, 19 March. Individual Tutorials. Sign up at 301c Leconte Hall.

Research!

Tuesday, 31 March. Group meetings with me during class time. Groups one and two only.

Thursday, 2 April. Group meetings with me during class time. Groups three and four only.

Research!

Tuesday, 14 April. Group presentations.

Thursday, 16 April. Group presentations.

Thursday, 23 April. Final papers are due in class today! History 4990 Celebration! Pizza, drinks.

