Field of Study Course Proposal
HIST 199

1. Proposed field of study: FHST

2. Course number and title: HIST 199: Elements of Historical Thinking

3. How this course fulfills the purpose of the field of study:
This course offers an introduction to the aims and methods of historical thinking. Through concentrated exploration of a particular historical issue, students develop their understanding of the nature and limits of historical evidence, the various legitimate ways of approaching it, and the art of making persuasive claims about it. Topics would vary according to instructor, but they would be highly focused, chosen to show students the variability of historical interpretation and enable them to practice interpretation on their own. Some examples: “The Crusades,” “Ideas in Action: Luther, Locke, and Marx,” “Tobacco” “Tokyo Trials.” Whatever the topic, students should come away from the course with a sense of the nature and limits of historical evidence, the various legitimate ways of approaching it, and the art of making persuasive claims about it.

4. Catalog description:
The central purpose of the course is not to cover a set amount of historical ground, but to introduce students, explicitly and graphically, to the nature of historical interpretation. The course serves both to satisfy the FSHT requirement and as the foundation course in the History major.

5. Course prerequisite(s): None

6. Number of units: 1

7. Typical estimated enrollment: 22

8. How often and by whom the course will be offered: Every semester by various History faculty

9. Staffing implications for the school/department/unit: None

10. Adequacy of library, technology and other resources: Adequate

11. Any interdepartmental and interschool implications: None

12. Contact person: Hugh West
History 199: Elements of Historical Thinking

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REQUIRED TEXTS


COURSE OBJECTIVES

"Tobacco" is a History 100: Introduction to Historical Thinking course. The purpose of the History department's History 100 courses is to introduce students to the nature of historical interpretation—how historians examine the past and form persuasive arguments. The course will teach you how to:

*Interpret historical evidence:* We'll read primary sources (documents from the past) including private letters, memoirs, photographs, advertising, and film

*Find evidence:* We’ll do research in Boatwright Library, online, and in the archives of the Virginia Historical Society.

*Learn how to read and craft historical arguments:* We'll read historical scholarship and debate the arguments leading scholars have made in the fields of political, social, labor, gender, and business history.

The rich and varied history of tobacco will be our window onto the broader study of history. We will examine tobacco's central place in the histories of European encounters with America, the American Revolution, slavery, labor and civil rights movements, images of gender, public health, and international business. Over the course of the semester, we’ll tackle such questions as: What role has tobacco played in America’s place in the world? How did the experience of Virginia’s planters influence the American Revolution? What role did tobacco workers play in the American civil rights movement? How has tobacco advertising reflected and shaped changing visions of gender roles? How did the cigarette become central to culture and society in the twentieth century?

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS
1. **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes. Excused absences are permitted for personal illness, judicial hearings, death in the family, and University-sponsored events. When you miss a class, you are responsible for the missed material. I will allow you two unexcused absences. More than two unexcused absences will begin to impact your grade. Failure to attend class regularly will result in a failing grade in the course.

2. **Reading and Class Participation:** History 100 is a discussion-based course. While I will provide some orienting lectures, your grasp of the material will come chiefly through your dedication to the weekly reading and your active participation in class discussions. There is, on average, 85 pages of reading each week in “Tobacco.” To perform adequately in the course, you should plan to dedicate 5-7 hours a week to the course readings. Class participation counts for 20% of your course grade.

3. **Required Field Trip:** We will be taking a field trip as a class TBA.

4. **Skill-Development Assignments:** To develop your skills in historical research and analysis, you will complete FOUR assignments over the course of the semester. Each assignment is due in class on specified days and will be graded on a 1-10 scale. Assignments will be marked down 1 point for each day late. Together, three short assignments will count for 15% of your course grade. One extended assignment will be worth 15% of your course grade.

5. **Formal Papers:** There will be two formal papers in the course. The first will be due on February 18th and is worth 15% of your course grade. The second paper is due on April 22nd and counts for 20% of your course grade.

6. **Final Exam:** There will be one in-class final exam on Friday, April 29th, 7-10 pm. The final will count for 15% of your course grade.

**Schedule of Topics and Readings**

**Mon, Jan 10**  
Introduction to History 100

**Encounters**

*Why and how did tobacco become a European commodity?*

**Wed, Jan 12**  
**Historical Questions** (20 pages)
- Handout: “Historian’s Questions”

**Mon, Jan 17**  
**Encountering Tobacco** (33 pages)
- Handout: “Primary and Secondary Sources”
Mentalities

How did the cultivation of tobacco shape the course of the American Revolution?

Wed, Jan 19  Historians’ Interpretations (40 pages)
Handout: “What is Historiography?”

Mon, Jan 24  Planter Values (48 pages)
Assignment #1: Two single-spaced paragraphs, one summarizing argument of Ortiz and another summarizing Breen’s argument in ch. 2.
Breen, Tobacco Culture, 40-83
Fernando Ortiz, Cuban Counterpoint: Tobacco and Sugar (1947), 6-7, 27-34

Wed, Jan 26  Library Visit (37 pages)
Breen, Tobacco Culture, 84-123

Mon, Jan 31  Planters and Merchants in Conflict (36 pages)
Assignment #2: Library research project
Breen, Tobacco Culture, 124-159

Wed, Feb 2  The Coming of the Revolution (50 pages)
Breen, Tobacco Culture, 160-210

Tobacco and Slavery

How did the production of tobacco change the practice of slavery in North America? What were the experiences of enslaved men and women who labored in tobacco fields?

Mon, Feb 7  Making American Slavery (30 pages)
Ira Berlin, Many Thousands Gone (2000): 1-12, 29-46

Wed, Feb 9  Interpreting Primary Sources (10 pages)
Handout: “Interpreting Primary Sources”
Richard Frethorne, 1623, George Alsop, 1666, Hugh Jones, 1724*

Mon, Feb 14  The Tobacco Revolution (47 pages)
Berlin, Many Thousands Gone, 95-141

Wed, Feb 16  Agency and Resistance (33 pages)
Handout: “Citing Sources in History Papers”
Berlin, Many Thousands Gone, 256-277 (middle)
Charles Ball, 1837, and Henry Box Brown, 1849*

Fri, Feb 18  **First Paper due by 5 pm via email**

Sat, Feb 19  Tour of Virginia Historical Society and Richmond, 1-5 pm
The Business of Tobacco

*How and why did the cigarette come to dominate the American tobacco industry? How did cigarettes become major international business by the early 20th century?*

Mon, Feb 21 **Richmond and Tobacco** (15 pages)
  - Charles Dickens, *American Notes* (1842)*
  - Alexander MacKay, “Richmond” (1849)*
  - “Richmond Black Codes” (1859)*
  - Samuel Mordecai, *Virginia, Especially Richmond, in By-Gone Days* (1860)*

Wed, Feb 23 **Tobacco Production after Emancipation** (33 pages)

Mon, Feb 28 **Comparing Historians’ Interpretations** (39 pages)
  - Tate, *Cigarette Wars*, 11-37
  - Courtwright, *Forces of Habit*, 112-122*

Fri, Mar 4 **Extended Assignment due by noon via email**

**SPRING BREAK**

Consumption

*How did cigarette smoking become commonplace and accepted? What meanings did advertisers, artists, mass culture, and ordinary Americans ascribe to smoking?*

Mon, Mar 14 **Battles over Consumption** (60 pages)
  - Tate, *Cigarette Wars*: 3-8, 39-92

Wed, Mar 16 **Gender and Tobacco** (25 pages)
  - Tate, *Cigarette Wars*, 93-117
  - Images of Women, Men, and Tobacco*

Mon, Mar 21 **Madison Avenue and Hollywood** (35 pages)
  - Cigarette Songs (in class)

Social Movements

*How did tobacco workers attempt to change the terms of work in the tobacco industry? What role did they play in the 20th century labor and civil rights movements?*

Wed, Mar 23 **Workers’ Culture and Consciousness** (18 pages)
  - George E. Pozzetta and Gary R. Mormino, “The Reader and the Worker: ‘Los Lectores’ and the Culture of Cigarmaking in Cuba and Florida.” *International Labor and Working-Class History*, v. 54 (Fall, 1998), 1-18*
Mon, Mar 28  Race, Politics, and Work (49 pages)

Wed, Mar 30 Race, Politics, and Work (22 pages)
Korstad, Civil Rights Unionism, 120-141*

Mon, Apr 4  Civil Rights, Economic Rights (26 pages)

Science, Politics, and Law
How did scientific research change understanding of tobacco use? How did battles in politics and law shape the regulation of tobacco?

Wed, Apr 6  Science (51 pages)
Brandt, Cigarette Century, 105-106, 114-129, 131-157, 159-163

Mon, Apr 11 The Politics of Regulation (77 pages)

Wed, Apr 13  Law (43 pages)
Brandt, Cigarette Century, 357-399
Film: “The Insider” (1999), MRC reserve and film screening, date and time TBA

Legacies
What is the place and future of U.S. tobacco in the world? What are the legacies of tobacco in the U.S. South? What role does it play in the lives and memories of Southern families?

Mon, Apr 18 American Tobacco and the World (43 pages)
Brandt, Cigarette Century, 449-491

Wed, Apr 20 Tobacco and Memory
“Bright Leaves” (2003), available through MRC reserve and iTunes

Fri, Apr 22  **Second Paper due by 5 pm via email**

Fri, Apr 29  **FINAL EXAM, 7-10 pm**