

HIST 7370 is an introduction to the practice of oral history as a method of gathering information about the past. It covers interviewing techniques, project planning and management, and uses of oral history materials in various public history settings. The course provides opportunities to consider and evaluate the historical value of oral history as evidence, ethical issues involved in oral history research, and the public utility of oral history materials in the quest for historical understanding. The course will give participants experience in field work and in outreach methods.

Requirements and Grading System of the Course

The Past Meets the Present: Essays on Oral History, selections

Baylor University Institute for Oral History (BUIOH) online workshops

Both available at <https://www.baylor.edu/oralhistory/index.php?id=931324>

Oral History Association (OHA) readings at www.oralhistory.org

Student's choice of a book based on oral history interviews

H-NET/OHA Discussion List on Oral History at <http://www.h-net.org/~oralhist>

Discussions and reaction papers, including some written in class, will be used to evaluate each student's understanding of readings and other materials used in the course. Level and quality of performance of specific tasks as part of the class project will affect the course grade. Each student will produce a written summary of his or her part of the class project, which will include conducting a minimum of three full-length interviews, and an evaluation of the project. The class project includes work on a podcast. Guidelines for the project, the h-net thread summary, and the project summary and evaluation will be distributed to the class.

Grades will be assigned based on the following percentages:

Discussions and Reaction Papers: 25%

Participation in Class Project: 50%

Project Summary and Evaluation: 25%

A=90-100 B=80-89.9 C=70-79.9 D=60-69.9 F=0-59.9

No make-up assignments will be given for students who miss class except in cases of documented medical necessity, family or weather-related emergency, or official University business. Grades for work turned in late will be reduced five points for each twenty-four hours past the deadline.

CLASS SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENTS/ TOPICS/READINGS

January 22	Introduction to the course/What is oral history?
January 29	BUIOH, "Introduction to Oral History"
February 5	BUIOH, online workshop: "Discovering Oral History" through "Preparing Legal Documents"
February 12	BUIOH, online workshop: "The Heart of Oral History: How to Interview"; OHA, "Principles and Best Practices"/semester project research plan
February 19	Presidents Day holiday
February 26	BUIOH, online workshop: "Introduction to Oral History," "Choosing Digital Recorders" and "Using Digital Media" and "Protecting & Preserving Recordings" through "Transcribing Oral Histories"/ Digital processing

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March 5	BUIOH, online workshop: “Focusing & Researching a Topic” through “Getting the Story”/Pre-interview research
March 12	Books selected/planning documents/pre-interview research, continued
March 19	Spring Break
March 26	H-OralHist etc. thread summary due/ Interviews under way
April 2	BUIOH, online workshop: “Critiquing and Citing” and “Reaching the Public”
April 9	Interviews completed and processing initiated
April 16	Interview processing, continued
April 23	Project wrap-up
April 30	Book summary due (9:00 a.m.)/class discussion of oral history-based books
May 7	Project summary and evaluation due

University Policy Statements

Academic integrity: This course operates in accord with University regulations regarding academic dishonesty, which are set forth in the UA Little Rock student handbook and other University documents and publications. Cheating on any assignment or exam will result in a grade of zero. Plagiarism, the willful act of stealing someone else’s work and passing it off as one’s own, is cheating. It will not be tolerated and will be reported to the UA Little Rock Administration by means of the Academic Offense Allegation Report. Because cooperative learning can be a helpful approach for many students, study groups and trading notes are permissible, though students should check the accuracy of information collected from other students and be careful to take credit only for their own work. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, check with me.

Students with disabilities: Your success in this class is important to me, and it is the policy and practice of the UA Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have a documented disability (or need to document a disability) and need an accommodation, please contact me privately as soon as possible so we can discuss with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) how to meet your specific needs and the requirements of the course. The DRC offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process among you, your instructor, and the DRC. Thus, if you have a disability, please contact me and/or the DRC, at 501-569-3143 (V/TTY) or 501-683-7629 (VP). For more information, please visit the DRC website at ualr.edu/disability. (UA Little Rock Policy 404.9)

Weather policy: UA Little Rock closes for inclement weather when the Little Rock public schools close. If the University is open but roads in your community are dangerous, you should use your own judgment about attending class. However, it is your responsibility to inform your instructor before class meets that it is too dangerous for you to travel to class. It is also the student’s responsibility to speak to the instructor about making up missed assignments. Be aware that classes meeting in the ASI building may be affected by closures of the Central Arkansas Library System, which owns the building. Monitor www.cals.org and local news media for information on CALS closings.

Contact Information and Office Hours

Monday: 3:30-5:30 p.m. or by appointment
Office: ASI 307
Phone 501.320.5710; Email: dstricklin@cals.org