

HIST 7699: THESIS SEMINAR

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University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Stabler Hall 601M

WELCOME!

Regardless of your background or career plans, I am pleased to have you in this course and believe that you will benefit from this focus on your thesis. My goal is to help you navigate this final stage of the MA program in public history and encourage your independence and creativity as an advanced graduate student.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

In this class you will plan, design, research, and write your thesis . . . Students should repeat this class in two consecutive semesters.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND FORMAT

This course differs significantly from traditional history courses. Rather than focus on a particular topic of study, you will develop an independent research project that incorporates the variety of research and writing skills that you have mastered in the public history program.

We will meet as a class only four times during the semester, although I will be available for individual consultations throughout the semester. During our class meetings, we will discuss the department's expectations for completing the program and awarding your degree, and you will develop personal goals to meet those expectations. While your thesis must be an independent research project, you will receive feedback from classmates and faculty members as your project takes shape. You will work independently, but you will not work in isolation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Learn the steps for successfully completing a project thesis or traditional thesis.
- Design and plan a project thesis or traditional thesis.
- Confirm your thesis advisor and the members of your thesis committee.
- Write first drafts of a process paper for project thesis or a chapter for traditional thesis.

BOOK(S)

This course does not require a textbook, but I highly recommend Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (ISBN 9780226430577).

ASSIGNMENTS

You will write three papers for this class. Each paper will build upon the previous one and establish the foundation of your thesis.

- An **initial thesis proposal** (300-350 words) will be due as an e-mail attachment (.doc, .docx, or .rtf) to btkey@ualr.edu **by noon on Tuesday, February 12**. It will clearly state the purpose, objectives, and significance of your thesis.
- A **formal thesis proposal** (1500-1750 words) will be due as an e-mail attachment (.doc, .docx, or .rtf) to btkey@ualr.edu **by noon on Tuesday, March 5**. It will clearly state the purpose, objectives, and significance of your thesis. The proposal will also provide a brief historiography and explain the research materials that you will utilize. A bibliography should be included.
- A **REVISED formal thesis proposal** (1500-1750 words) will be due as an e-mail attachment (.doc, .docx, or .rtf) to btkey@ualr.edu **by noon on Wednesday, March 27**. It will clearly state the purpose, objectives, and significance of your thesis. The proposal will also provide a brief historiography and explain the research materials that you will utilize. A bibliography should be included. This proposal will be shared with your thesis committee.
- A draft of your **process paper** or **first chapter** (word count will vary but approximately 9,000-10,500 words) will be due as an e-mail attachment (.doc, .docx, or .rtf) to btkey@ualr.edu **by noon on Tuesday, April 30**. This paper should also be shared with the chair of your thesis committee.

A NOTE ON WRITING

Please understand that I have the highest expectations for your writing. Poor grammar, misspelled words, and the like are absolutely unacceptable for a thesis. I will be glad to help you improve, but I also urge you to work with the chair of your thesis committee and utilize the University Writing Center. See <http://ualr.edu/writingcenter/> for details.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Your success in this class is important to me, and it is the policy and practice of the University of Arkansas at 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 that 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(s) 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)

UNSOLICITED ADVICE

- ✓ Class will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. Compulsive tardiness is annoying and rude. Be on time.
- ✓ Carefully note due dates and times. We will do our best when we meet deadlines, share our work with classmates, and receive constructive feedback.
- ✓ Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and I will try to have you removed from the public history program if you plagiarize. Please consult with me if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism.

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail is the best way to contact me. You may expect a reply within a few hours if you send one during regular business hours. If you send one after regular business hours, I will reply on the next morning of the following business day. You are also welcome to visit my office.

E-mail: btkey@ualr.edu
Office: 604N Stabler Hall
Hours: MW, 8-9 a.m. or by appointment

GRADING

Two grades are given for this course, IP (in progress) and CR (credit). After you complete and defend your thesis, your grade for this course will be changed to CR. Until that time, your grade for this course will be IP. For more information about UALR's grading systems, see <https://ualr.edu/policy/home/facstaff/grades-and-grading-systems/>.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MEETING DATES	TOPICS
January 23	Introduction; understanding different types of theses; choosing a thesis topic and writing initial proposal
February 13	Discussing initial thesis proposals; confirming thesis topic and choosing thesis advisor; writing formal proposal
March 6	Discussing formal thesis proposals and setting goals
March 27	***No class meeting but due date for revisions of formal thesis proposals***
May 1	Read and discuss drafts of introductions or process papers; address research challenges

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The UALR inclement weather policy is available at <https://ualr.edu/policy/home/admin/weather/>.