**HIST 3942 History Practicum: Chinese Exclusion Act**

**Spring 2019 – T 11.45-1.40 / R 12.50-1.40**

**Instructor: Dr. Selda Altan**

**Office: Keene-Flint 020 – Office Hours: T/R 2-3.30 pm**

**Contact: selda.altan@ufl.edu**

**Introduction**

The purpose of this history practicum is to introduce students to the basics of historical theory and practice. Throughout the semester, we will work on developing fundamental skills in historical research and analysis, critical reading, and argumentative writing. To practice these skills, we will focus on the *Chinese Exclusion Act*, and its emergent themes. The *Chinese Exclusion Act* can broadly be defined as a series of laws and regulations passed by Congress to prevent Chinese immigration into the U.S. in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Our thematic discussions will center on the origins of Chinese migration to the U.S., and its impact on American politics as it pertains to the questions of race and labor in the 19th century.

**Structure and Objectives**

The practicum aspect of the course is comprised of three main units. In the first four weeks, we will focus on research skills by which we identify potential sources for a topic of interest. In this unit, we will spend time discovering eligible sources at the University of Florida, and work through diverse types of research materials. In the second unit, we will focus on analytical reading skills, such as close reading, reading for the argument, measuring the credibility of primary and secondary sources, and analyzing documents and other historical materials. In the third unit, we will focus on refining the skills of writing, self-editing, and presenting. By the end of the semester, students will write a research paper prospectus, utilizing the skills and sources, which we worked on during the semester.
Course Materials


All other materials are available on Canvas. **Please check the syllabus before and after each class to make sure you do the required readings and assignments.**

Expectations

- Students are expected to **attend class on time**, having completed the readings and assignments, and ready with comments and questions to share with the class. Lateness is distracting to class members and arriving more than ten minutes late count as an absence. You **lose 2 points after two excused absences** regardless of your class performance. Attendance will be taken as usual during out-of-class activities.
- **Participation** is graded not solely on the quantity, but on the **quality** of your comments.
- If you miss a class for a valid reason, please do not email the instructor or TA to learn what you miss. Instead, **ask your classmates for class notes and assignments**.
- **No late work** is accepted unless a medical emergency is documented.
- You can use your **tablets and laptops** only for note-taking purposes. If other activity is detected, the student will not be allowed to use technology for the remainder of the semester.
- You can send **emails to the instructor or course assistant** any time you need to, but do not expect an immediate response either after 6 pm or on weekends. Emails without formal salutation and closing will not be answered.
- **Office visits** are highly encouraged during the office hours, but if you have a conflict, please request another time that works for you.
• If you need any **special accommodations**, please contact the Dean of Students Office (https://dso.ufl.edu) or the Disability Resource Center (https://disability.ufl.edu) and inform the instructor about your special needs.

• **Exercises** on the syllabus refer to in-class activities while **assignments** are homework to be completed by indicated due date.

### Assessment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercises and Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prospectus</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3942 Assessment</td>
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### Schedule of Classes and Assignments

#### Week 1

- **Jan 8**  
  Course and syllabus introduction

- **Jan 10**  
  *What is history?*
  
  Exercise 1 (no points): Terms
  
  Read: *Doing History*, chapter 1: Introduction, pp. 3-17.

#### Week 2

- **Jan 15**  
  Lecture: Chinese Immigration to the U.S.: Causes and Effects
  
  Read: Gyory, chapter 2, pp. 17-38.
  
  Exercise 2 (2 points): Reading history books, first look

- **Jan 17**  
  *What is a source? How to use it?*
  
  Read: *Doing History*, chapter 4: Using Sources, pp. 65-81.

#### Week 3

- **Jan 22**  
  *Where to find sources?*
  
  Exercise: Bring your laptops/tablets for class exercise.

- **Jan 24**  
  Documentary: Chinese Exclusion Act
  
  Exercise 3 (2 points): Watching to learn
Week 4
Jan 29   Exercise 3 (5 points): Library scavenger hunt
Jan 31   Library visit, special collections  
Assignment 1 (3 points): Specify 3 collections/locations in the library that can be useful for an Asia-related research. Please specify the research topic.

Week 5
Feb 5   Reading and using secondary sources  
Perspectives in history  
Read: Doing History, chapter 2: Changing Approaches to History, pp. 19-49.
Feb 7   Textual and non-textual analysis 
Exercise 4 (2 points): Read a text to analyze its discursive qualities. Analyze an image.  
Read: Gyory, chapter 1, pp. 3-16.

Week 6
Feb 12  Museum Visit  
Exercise 5 (2 points): Objects and interdisciplinary visions in history
Feb 14  History and other fields: how to interact 
Exercise 6 (3 points): Museum visit conclusions

Week 7
Feb 19  Lecture: American reactions to Chinese immigration  
Organizing your research findings  
Read: Gyory, chapter 3, pp. 39-59.
Feb 21  Alternative histories 
Read: Doing History, chapter 8: Histories from Another Perspective, pp. 137-152.

Week 8
Feb 26  Lecture: The Politics of Chinese Exclusion  
Read: Gyory, chapter 4-5, pp. 60-91.
Feb 28  Writing in history  
--- Spring Break ---
2-9 March 2019

Week 9
Mar 12  What is a thesis statement? Writing argumentative essays
        Annotated bibliography due
Mar 14  They say/I say
        Exercise 7 (5 points): Work with templates to situate your argument

Week 10
Mar 19  Lecture: Denis Kearney and American labor against Chinese immigration
        Structure in writing
Mar 21  Issues in Writing (self-editing for descriptive and biased writing)

Week 11
Mar 26  Lecture: The Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882
        Plagiarism and Academic Honesty
        Read: Gyory, chapter 12, pp. 242-259; Rampolla, chapter 6: Plagiarism
Mar 28  Quoting and citing in historical writing
        Read, Rampolla, chapter 7: Quoting and Documenting Sources
        Exercise 8 (3 points): Create 6 footnote and bibliography entries.

Week 12
Apr 2   What to do with a history major? (divided class)
        Assignment 2 (3 points): Find three famous people (non-historians) with history majors. How do you think their training in history helped in their profession?
Apr 4   How to present an historical research in class or in social media

Week 13
Apr 9   Lecture: the Effects and Legacy of the Chinese Exclusion
Apr 11  Peer editing for writing and presenting
First drafts due in paper copy, bring color pens

Week 14
Apr 16  Oral presentations
Apr 18  Oral presentations

Week 15
Apr 23  Course evaluation, HIS 3941 assessment, and concluding remarks
Prospectus due by 11.45 am