

History 6400
Special Topics in American History

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This class will explore the methods and approaches of doing local history. Students will become familiar with the wide range of sources undergirding the study of locales and local events through readings in local history and assignments utilizing local sources. Particular attention will be paid to the basic issues of reliability and context in the evaluation and use of sources. Although this is a course that will utilize and focus on American sources, students in other fields may, with approval, explore writings and sources in the area of their thesis.

Before the first meeting of the class you should consult with your major advisor and bring to class a good example of local history in your field of inquiry. A critical review of the book of five pages will be due the second meeting of the class. Further assignments in specific readings and in sources will be made as the course progresses. Papers should conform to Turabian in terms of footnote and bibliographic citations.

Each of these assignments/reviews will constitute 50% of your grade. The remaining 50% will be earned through a 15 page paper that utilizes local sources as a key component of the study. The topic for the paper will be determined in consultation with the professor.