

american_history

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1 REQUIREMENTS for Class:

Bring a pen and paper to class every week, along with any research or writing that you've done. It is your responsibility to print out these materials, or bring a device to access them.

Given that, computers are allowed in class, but only when you are pulling up specific information, at all other times laptops should be closed, phones in pockets, tablets locked, etcetera.

2 ASSIGNMENTS:

Each week you will be given topics to research outside of class. You will present your findings the next week where we will discuss them.

3 TIPS FOR RESEARCH:

Wikipedia will list sources at the bottom of the page. Some of these can be found online, others in libraries. Google for a specific figure, law, battle,

idea, etc. Don't just click the first thing, but pull up several articles and see where they lead you.

The library is still the most useful way to find information. The categorization and variety excels anything you'll find googling. Many libraries also have online databases which you can access. Public libraries also have an Interlibrary Loan Service, which means you can request books from other libraries to be delivered to your local branch.

4 FINAL GRADES:

50% Participation 50% Research

Your research will be evaluated based on its depth. Wikipedia articles and such are a fine place to start, but you will need to go deeper if you want to excel. Primary sources, academic studies/journals, library materials, etcetera are all great. You don't have to read a whole book on the Revolutionary War, but any given section of it will go into more depth than a generalist text.

You will also be evaluated for the variety of research you can find. A lot of the information could be found in a single textbook, but the more perspectives you can find on it, the better. Seek out not just descriptions, but explanations, and test them against the explanations of other sources.

There is only so much information available to you, and only so much time to find it, so you're welcome to team up with your classmates to tackle individual topics in more depth and share your findings with each other. It's a great way to learn other people's research tips, and being able to summarize your knowledge is great practice.

Part of this research grade includes research papers that you'll write this semester. We will discuss the requirements for these later in the semester.