

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith  
5210 Grand Avenue  
P. O. Box 3649  
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649  
479-788-7000**

**General Syllabus**

**HIST 38033 Methods of Historical Research**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: 12 hours of History coursework

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

Techniques of historical research, critical analysis of historical texts, and written and oral presentation of research results and analysis.

**B. Additional Information**

The course will be conducted in a seminar format, with each student conducting an original historical research project and presenting his or her findings to the class.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Read and assess the historical credibility of primary and secondary sources.
2. Recognize, find, and use a variety of research tools available to the historian.
3. Write and present a history research paper.
4. Critically analyze the work of other students and other historians.

**B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will write and present research papers.

**Analytical Skills****Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will analyze primary and secondary sources. Students will write critiques of selected authors, as well as select and annotate a working bibliography.

**III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Reasons for Studying History
- B. Historiography and Methods of Writing
- C. Methods of Research
- D. Primary Sources and Their Availability
- E. Secondary Sources and Their Biases
- F. Writing a Thesis with Academic Credibility
- G. Interdisciplinary Links to History
- H. Critiquing the Academic Work of Yourself and Others
- I. Presentation of the Finished Product