

HISTORY 123 — HISTORY AT WORK

2024 Spring

Wednesday, 9:30-10:20

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Office hours: after class or by appointment

History 123 is a class for history majors to explore history as a field, and their future as history graduates. We will do planning for your academic and post-academic future, professional development, and career exploration.

I. Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should have:

- a better acquaintance with history as an academic field, and the department
- a grasp of several methods and practices useful in academic history, including library and archival research, and digital humanities
- an adaptable plan for the next five to six years
- a better understanding of career options for history graduates
- improved tools and skills for job searches

II. Assignments

Academic and post-academic plan. You will produce a plan for at least the next five years, and at least three years after graduation. This would show your remaining coursework, and your immediate plans for work and/or further education. But this plan must have, throughout, a number of options. You can start with your ideal outcome for any given choice (a job, a school), but you need to propose *realistic* alternatives as well.

Career exploration. You will register for an account with the Center for Career Opportunities, MyCCO. Once you have a completed resume, you will upload that. You will also make an appointment with a career counselor at CCO.

Job search. You will identify one example each of three different jobs: an internship available for the coming or following summer; a job that you are qualified for right now; and a job that you *would* be qualified for at some point in your post-academic plan. You don't have to apply for it (though you can, of course); but each needs to be a real job.

Resume and/or curriculum vitae. You will produce an updated master resume, showing your current qualifications and *all* of your previous employment. You will also produce a version of your resume that you could use with each of the three jobs above, edited from your

master resume for length, and to feature the most relevant of your experience and qualifications.

Cover letter template and targeted cover letters. You should first draft a generic cover letter, containing basic elements that you would generally want a prospective employer to know about you. You will then produce a version of that cover letter for each of your identified jobs.

III. Weekly schedule

Week 1, January 10

Introduction. Discussion of assignments.

Week 2, January 17

History as an academic field
Professor Debbie Fleetham

Week 3, January 24

Job search and application basics
Morgan Delph, Center for Career Opportunities

Week 4, January 31

Library research and resources
Professor Kristin Leaman, School of Information Studies
Meet in Lilly G428

Week 5, February 7

Archives and archival research
Professor Adriana Harmeyer, Archives and Special Collections
Meet in the HSSE library

Week 6, February 14

Work and discussion day — plan

Week 7, February 21

Careers and career opportunities
Abby Croft, CLA Career Center

Week 8, February 28

Digital humanities
Professor Spencer Stewart, History and Information Studies

Week 9, March 6

Law
Cristy Gosney, Center for Career Opportunities
Cory Judd, lawyer and Purdue history graduate

Ian Campbell, lawyer and Purdue history graduate

Week 10, March 13

Spring Break; no class

Week 11, March 20

Academic administration

Jimmy Cox, Student-Alumni Programs, Purdue For Life Foundation

Class discussion on assignments

Week 12, March 27

Museums and public history

Professor Liz Kryder-Reid, director of Museum Studies, IUPUI

Professor Rebecca Shrum, director of Public History, IUPUI

Week 13, April 3

Education

Professor Chrystal Johnson, Social Studies Education

Week 14, April 10

Graduate school

Professor Katie Brownell, director of graduate education

Professor Dave Atkinson, director of history honors

Week 15, April 17

Purdue Just In Time Job Fair

Week 16, April 24

Final discussion

No final exam

IV. Grading

Because this class is graded pass/not-pass, the main requirement to pass is that you take it seriously. If you attend class and do the assignments in earnest, you will pass.

But for the record, this will be the grade breakdown:

Attendance: 30%

Academic/post-academic plan: 20%

Job search: 10%

Resumes: 20%

Cover letters: 20%

Grading Scheme

A+ = 97-100	A = 93-96	A- = 90-92
B+ = 87-89	B = 83-86	B- = 80-82
C+ = 77-79	C = 73-76	C- = 70-72
D+ = 67-69	D = 63-66	D- = 60-62
F = 59 & below		

V. Course policies

Attendance: Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory. If you are unable to attend for any reason, please e-mail me ahead of time.

Free expression: Purdue is committed to free expression, and so am I. While you cannot say *anything* you want at *any* time — it is still necessary to have some order in a classroom, for example — you are encouraged to read Purdue’s policy on free expression, and recognize the value to your own education of an environment where ideas are exchanged and discussed freely. <https://www.purdue.edu/purdue/about/free-speech.php>

V. Writing assistance

Purdue Writing Lab: You welcome to take advantage of Purdue’s writing lab: https://owl.purdue.edu/writinglab/the_writing_lab_at_purdue.html. The lab has three campus locations (Krach, the HSSE library, and WALC), and offers online help as well.