

HISTORY 123 — HISTORY AT WORK

2025 Fall

Wednesday, 9:30-10:20

Schleman 317

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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 or the CLA Career Center.

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.

Your plan, cover letter template, and master resume will all be produced first as drafts, for me to review; due dates are below. A small part of your grade for each of these assignments will be based on turning in these drafts on time. Based on my feedback, and anything you learn in class, you will revise these three documents, and turn them in along with all other materials on December 3.

III. Weekly schedule

Week 1, August 27

Introduction. Discussion of assignments.

Week 2, September 3

History as an academic field

Professor Debbie Fleetham

Week 3, September 10

Library research and resources

Cover letters

Work and discussion day — plan

Job search and draft plan due

Week 4, September 17

Archives and archival research

Professor Adriana Harmeyer, Archives and Special Collections

Meet in the HSSE library

Week 5, September 24

Job search and application basics; resumes

Morgan Delph, Center for Career Opportunities

Week 6, October 1

TBA

Draft cover letter template due

Week 7, October 8

Museums

Erika Kvam, director and head curator, Purdue Galleries

Week 8, October 15

TBA

Draft master resume due

Week 9, October 22

Education

Professor Chrystal Johnson, Social Studies Education

Week 10, October 29

Law

Cristy Gosney, Center for Career Opportunities

Cory Judd, lawyer and Purdue history graduate

Ian Campbell, lawyer and Purdue history graduate

Week 11, November 5

Public history

Professor Rebecca Shrum, director of Public History, IU–Indianapolis

Week 12, November 12

TBA

Week 13, November 19

Class discussion on assignments

Week 14, November 26

Thanksgiving Break; **NO CLASS**

Week 15, December 3

Historic preservation

Professor J.P. Hall, director of Historic Preservation, Ball State

Mikayla Klemp, historic preservationist and Purdue history graduate

All final assignments due

Week 16, December 10

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

Pass = 70-100
Not pass = Below 70

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 are 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.