

HISTORY 100: HISTORICAL THINKING (Auditors' Section)

UW-Stevens Point at Wausau

Spring 2022

Professor Brett Barker, Ph.D.

T and Th 9:30-10:45

Course ID: 42551

Rm 243

Contact Information:

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Course Objectives:

This course is an introduction to the way historians think about and analyze the past and the world around them. It chooses a historical topic to study in depth—this semester we will be examining Wisconsin and the Civil War. We will be focusing on critical thinking skills, analysis of sources, historical interpretation, and the ways in which historians disagree about the past.

Knowledge: a demonstrated understanding of the following:

- the way historians think and write about the past
- the way historians use and analyze sources in order to understand and interpret the past
- the way historians disagree about the past and their interpretation of it
- Wisconsin during the 1860s
- the military contributions of Wisconsin to the Union war effort
- the lives of ordinary soldiers during the Civil War
- the role Wisconsin civilians played in the Union war effort
- political debates in Wisconsin during the Civil War era
- the impact of the Civil War on Wisconsin
- the ways in which Wisconsin's role in the Civil War has been remembered from 1865 to the present

Skills: success in this course will also require demonstration of the following:

- the ability to read and listen with critical perception
- the ability to analyze and synthesize course materials
- the ability to distinguish between knowledge, values, beliefs, and opinions
- the ability to use evidence to support assertions about the past

Text (required):

Ronald Larson, *Wisconsin and the Civil War*. ISBN: 9781467137195

Note: There will be numerous other readings for this class posted to Canvas.

Course Calendar:

Unit 1: What Is History and How Do Historians Study the Past?

Weeks 1-2: Jan. 25- Feb. 3

Unit 2: Wisconsin Before the Civil War

Weeks 3-4: Feb. 8-17

Unit 3: Badgers in Blue: The Soldiers

Weeks 5-8: Feb. 23- Mar. 17

Note: There will not be class on March 10 or March 17.

Spring Break: March 19-27 NO CLASSES

Unit 4: The Home Front

Weeks 9-12: Mar. 29- Apr. 21

Unit 5: The End of the War and Its Toll

Weeks 13-14: Apr. 26- May 5

Unit 6: History and Memory

Week 15: May 10-12

Notes:

1) This is an auditor that is only open to auditors over the age of 60 who can take the course without charge under Wisconsin law. As an auditor, I am not permitted to grade any of your work and this course does not carry college credits of any kind. As such, your only responsibility is to do the assigned readings, attend class when you are able, and engage in a civil conversation about the American past with me and your classmates.

2) Every Thursday, you will receive a “prep sheet” that explains what you will be expected to do in the coming week (readings, written assignments, unit projects, in-class work). If you are not in class on Thursday, check Canvas. If you don’t find it there, email Brett for a copy.