

# HISTORY 450: Public Internship

UW-Stevens Point  
Spring 2024  
Professor Brett Barker, Ph.D.

Class ID# 40784

Meeting: TBD

## Contact Information:

E-mail: [bbarker@uwsp.edu](mailto:bbarker@uwsp.edu)

Office: 477B CCC

## Course Objectives:

This course consists of an internship, either here at UWSP or with an external agency such as the Portage County Historical Society. The department currently requires at least 40 hours of on-site work for each credit hour taken.

Knowledge: a demonstrated understanding of the following:

- what public history is and how it differs from academic or university-centered history
- how public history institutions operate and their administrative and leadership structures
- what roles interns play within these institutions

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

- the ability to act independently to fulfill the required time commitment
- the ability to communicate effectively with your supervisor and with Prof. Barker
- the ability to meet required duties and to show flexibility in working with the assigned organization

## Attendance:

**This course does not include normal class meetings.** You will have an initial meeting with Prof. Barker to determine your interests and assign you to an internship. Thereafter, you should contact Prof. Barker if you have any: questions about course requirements; are having difficulty working within your assignment; or are struggling with any of the tasks assigned. It is your responsibility to stay in touch, as the expectation is that you are an upper-class student who can manage your own work and meet expectations and deadlines.

## Grading Scale:

	93-100	A	90-92	A-	
87-89	B+	83-86	B	80-82	B-
77-79	C+	73-76	C	70-72	C-
67-69	D+	60-66	D	0-59	F

## Required Texts:

There are no required texts for this course. Your assigned supervisor may require reading as part of your duties.

**Assignment Schedule:**

The assignments are minimal, but there are two key assignments that will monitor your progress:

- 1) In Week 8 of the semester—the deadline this semester is Friday, March 15—you will make a report via email, confirming the work you have been doing and stating how many of your required hours you have completed so far. You should ideally reach at least 50 hours by this date if you are enrolled for 3 credits.
- 2) By the last day of classes—May 10—you should submit, via email to [bbarker@uwsp.edu](mailto:bbarker@uwsp.edu), a report that confirms that you have spent the required hours on the internship, as well as a reflection on the work you did and what you learned as a result. You should be aware that Prof. Barker will also discuss your performance with your assigned supervisor.

**Grading:** Course grades will be based on the successful completion of the internship as well as the two assignments, augmented by the feedback from your supervisor.

**Next Steps:**

Many students choose to work in the History Archives on campus or on the Archives oral history project. If these sound interesting, or if you would like to explore other options, then please schedule a meeting with Prof. Barker as soon as possible, as there are other possibilities and he will help you make contacts and approve your final assignment.

**Students with Disabilities:**

The University has a legal responsibility to provide accommodations and program access as mandated by Section 54 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The university's philosophy is to not only provide what is mandated but also convey its genuine concern for one's total well-being. If accommodations are needed, please contact the instructor as well as the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC), located on the Stevens Point campus. Students can also pick up an application for accommodations packet in the Solution Center.

DATC contact information:

(715) 346-3365 (Voice)

(715) 346-3362 (TDD only)

or via email at [datctr@uwsp.edu](mailto:datctr@uwsp.edu)

**Office Hours and Appointments:** Every one of you should come visit me during my office hours this semester. My office hours are time set aside for students, and successful students take advantage of them. Whether it's a simple question or a serious problem in the course, you should never hesitate to drop in or make an appointment if my office hours do not fit your schedule.

**Changes to the Syllabus:**

I have tried to make this syllabus as accurate, complete, and helpful as possible. I do not anticipate changing any elements of this course, but I reserve the right to do so. Any changes will be announced in class with as much advance notice as possible.