

Tentative Syllabus

Community-Engaged History (HIST 4990-002)
Professor Susie S. Porter

Tuesday, Thursday 9:10-10:30
CTHIB 351

Course Description

This course asks: what matters to you and how has history shaped those things? Where and who is your community, or communities? How can the process of researching and writing history enrich the communities that matter to you? You may define your community by geography, religious affinity, ethnic group, sexual identity, work place, school, political community, or other criteria.

To answer these questions in ways that lead to writing history in service of community building, the course will begin with self-examination. How do you identify your communities and commitments. Building off this personal reflection, you will spend time defining and exploring the history of where you are positioned and why. How has history shaped our understanding of what matters to you? We will then think about how the process of gathering data and conducting research can influence community, perhaps build community. At the culmination of the course you will have produced reflections on these questions and produced a history in service of the present. The history may be in written, aural, or visual form and delivered in a manner that contributes to engaging community.

This is a hybrid class: the first half of the semester we meet in person and the second half of the class is on-line. See dates below.

Weekly meetings

1. May 15, 17

Uses of History; self-reflection and reflection on community and purpose

- a. What is your relationship to the study and telling of history?
- b. How do you understand the usefulness, or lack thereof, of history?
- c. What are your communities? Where and who make up those communities?
- d. How is the history of those communities told?
- e. How does the telling of history shape those communities and the people in them?

Read: Yeh, *Filipino Love Stories*; Oram, *Going on an Outing*; Correia, *Creating Public Scholars*; Erzen, *The Broom Closet*; Pope Melish, *Public History and American Studies*

2. May 22, 24 Why write history?

- a. Models, *Making Change*

Read: Paula Hamilton and Linda Shopes, eds., *Oral History and Public Memories*, Introduction and Part III (on-line access: ite.ebrary.com/lib/Utah/detail.action?docID=10255148)

Due: Complete the reading guide for one essay to turn in during class.

3. May 29, 31 Why write history?

- a. Models, *Recreating Identity and Community*

Read: Paula Hamilton and Linda Shopes, eds., *Oral History and Public Memories*, Part II, *Recreating Identity and Community*

Due: Complete the reading guide for one essay to turn in during class.

4. June 5, 7 Partners, spaces, and places

- a. Models, *Creating Heritage*
b. Identifying partners
a. What are your interests?
b. What are the interests of the community? Community need?
c. Coincidence of interests?

Read: Paula Hamilton and Linda Shopes, eds., *Oral History and Public Memories*, Part I

Due: Complete the reading guide for one essay to turn in during class.

Due: One-page write up that identifies your project, community, and purpose.

5. June 12, 14 Assessment of the field

- a. What histories have been told?
b. Who has told these histories and where have they been told?
c. How has this history been told?
d. What are the assumptions that shaped this history?

Due: Proposal and bibliography of 10 publications (articles, books) or artifacts (eg., public history display, monument, etc.)

6. June 19, 21 Oral history methodology

- a. Analysis of objectives
i. Key words
b. Work schedule
c. Ethics
d. Oral history methodology

Read: Barbara W. Sommer and Mary Kay Quinlan, *The Oral History Manual*

7. June 26, 28 Independent work in the Archives

- 8. July 3, 5 *On-line* Partnership relations and assessment**
- a. Clear communication
 - b. Clear purpose
 - c. Hearing muted voices

Read: TBD on ethics of CBR; communication

- 9. July 10, 12 *On-line* Peer review of proposals**

- 10. July 17, 19 *On-line* Where and how to tell the story?**

- a. Space, place, accessibility
- b. Modes of interaction
- c. Senses and temporalities

- 11. July 24 (holiday), 26 *On-line* Evaluation and reflection**

- a. How to measure impact
- b. Why bother?
- c. Research reciprocity

- 12. July 31 *On-line* Peer review**

- a. The ups and downs of writing

Due: August 5

Final project

DRAFT