

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

“History Harvest”

German Legacies in the American Midwest

HIST 396

TuTh 9:30AM - 10:45AM, Mabel Lee 230

Prof. Gerald Steinacher

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Office Hours: TUE 2.30PM – 3.30PM, or by appointment

I. Course description

HIST 396 (The History Harvest) is an advanced undergraduate course in digital history that will provide students with the opportunity to work directly with the professor and the community to document local history by conducting interviews, collecting artifacts and presenting them online. This year the course will focus on Nebraska family histories with an emphasis on immigrant families from German-speaking Europe and especially Germans from Russia. Therefore, we will closely cooperate with the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia and its Museum in Lincoln.

The course will combine hands-on field research with in-class lectures. During the first part of the course students will meet in a traditional classroom setting to discuss assigned readings and develop a basic understanding of 19th century immigration history in general, and the Germans from Russia history in particular. During the second part of the course students will form task teams to prepare for and conduct a number of “History Harvests.” Our main History Harvest Day is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 18. The collected materials and conducted interviews will then be digitized, organized, described, and a selection of them will be featured on our website, <http://historyharvest.unl.edu/>.

II. Course Requirements

A. Required Reading about the community

Frederick C. Luebke, *Germans in the New World* (selected chapters see blackboard)

Paul Schach, “German-Language Newspapers in Nebraska” - see online

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1984GermanNewspapers.pdf>

Hattie Plum Williams, *A Social Study of the Russian Germans 1916* – online see

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/dissertations/AAIDP18763/>

For further reading see website of the Germans from Russia:

<http://www.ahsgr.org/index.htm?aspxerrorpath=/>

Introduction to topic watch video interview

<http://lincoln.ne.gov.aspx/city/vod.aspx?vod=Live%20and%20Learn/Live%20and%20Learn%20June%202014%20DRAFT%20REV.mov>

Recommended Reading

Timothy Egan, *The Worst Hard Time. The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* (New York: Houghton Mifflin/Mariner Book 2006).

Karen Shoemaker, *The Meaning of Names* (Pasadena, CA: Red Hen Press 2014).

Additional readings will appear on the blackboard or will be handed out in class.

B. Attendance: Your active participation is crucial for the success of this class. Therefore, class participation is an important component of your grade. You have to attend class in order to participate. Regular attendance is therefore expected. I keep track of attendance through an attendance register and it is your responsibility to ensure that you sign in. That is, even if you attend class but forget or fail to sign the register, you will not be given credit for attending. The register will be circulated at the beginning of class, so any late comers will need to ask me for it at the end of class. If you miss more than three classes, you will receive 0 points for attendance.

C. Readings: The readings assigned in this course are limited, but you are expected to read everything assigned prior to class. Students will take brief reading quizzes in which we discuss the assigned readings.

III. Grading:

Attendance: 200

PR-team participation: 100

Mini Harvests Contribution: 200

History Harvest Days' Contribution: 300

Online presentation contribution: 200

You can earn a total of 1000 points in this class. An "A" grade will be 900 points and above a "B" 800-899, a "C" 700-799; and a "D" 600-699. I will also use pluses and minuses, if appropriate. Your decision to enroll and take this course means that you have accepted the terms of this syllabus.

IV. Classroom Protocol and Etiquette

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Please see the full statement regarding academic dishonesty in the "Student Code of Conduct" printed in the UNL Student Handbook <http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code> .

V. Students with disabilities

are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

VI. COURSE SCHEDULE

FIRST DAY OF CLASS: August 26, 2014

Week 1: **Introduction to the Class**

THU Guest speaker comes to class
Read Egan, *High Plains Deutsch* (blackboard)

Week 2: **Documenting history**

T Read Luebke, *Germans in the New World* (blackboard)
and Schach, “German-Language Newspapers in Nebraska”
THU Visit Nebraska State Archives – Operations and Procedures for Harvest

Week 3: **Family Artifacts as History**

T Read Plum, *A Social Study of the Russian Germans*
THU Community outreach and publicity; "Task teams"
Bring one of your own family history documents or objects

Week 4: **HH Workshop before the mini-harvest**

T Technology, Equipment and the History Harvest (Jake Friefeld)
THU Building the History Harvest Web-Archive with Omeka (Andrew Jewell)
See <http://omeka.org>
Read Dan Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, *Digital History* <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/>

Week 5: **HH Work Week:**

“Mini harvest” at the Museum (Tentative date: Thursday 9/25, 9.30-12). Students work with a collection, some objects, describe and digitize all of it. All students are required to participate in this event.

Publicity Poster completed, press release copy ready, social media, Radio, local word of mouth

Week 6: **Introduction Oral history**

T Guest speaker
THU Conducting test interviews, practice with air pads, scanner, digital camera etc.

Week 7: **HH Work Week:**

T Curation and presentation of “Mini Harvest” materials with Omeka (exhibit)
THU Preparing for the History Harvest Day – forms, technology, teams

Read Sarah Higgins, “What are metadata standards?”

<http://www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/briefing-papers/standards-watch-papers/what-are-metadata-standards>

Dublin Core User Guide <http://dublincore.org/documents/usageguide/>

Julia Flanders and Trevor Mundoz, “An Introduction to Humanities Data Curation”
<http://guide.dhcuration.org/intro/#allArticleComments>

Week 8: **Main History Harvest Day!** (Setup technology the day before)
Saturday, October 18, 1-4 PM: Tentative date for the main History Harvest! All students are required to participate in this event, as the Harvest days are crucial of the class.

Week 9: **October 20-21: Fall break**
October 23: out of class assignment

Week 10: **HH Work Week**

Week 11: **HH Work Week**

Week 12: **HH Work Week**

Week 13: **HH Work Week**

Week 14: **HH Work Week**

Week 15: **HH Work Week**

Week 16: **Final discussion, Presentation of results**

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change and any changes to this syllabus will be announced in class.