Labor history and business history offer two distinct, and sometimes irreconcilable, interpretations of the United States' economic past. Rather than take one narrative as “correct” and the other as “incorrect,” this course will use the interpretative differences of the two disciplines to understand how historians write history and how disciplinary questions, contexts, and assumptions frame the practice of writing.

Papers:
Over the course of the semester students will write papers of many different lengths and styles culminating with a longer research paper will be on a topic of the student's choosing.

All sources must be footnotated in the proper *Chicago Manual of Style* format. For more information on footnoting, please see [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html) and Kate Turabian *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Reading:
Good writing begins with reading. We will spend a great deal of attention not only on content but how historians use sources to make arguments.

We will use *Writing History* as an informal textbook for the course.

Attendance:
Active and constructive participation is expected.

Grading:
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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Summaries 1:</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Outline and Bibliography:</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Close Reading</td>
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<td>Chapter Summaries 2:</td>
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<td>Book Review</td>
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<td>Group Book Review:</td>
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<td>First Page and Last Paragraph:</td>
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<td>Rough Draft</td>
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<td>Op-ed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position Piece</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>20</td>
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**Classes:**
January 24: Historiography and Research in Labor and Business History

January 26: Reading and Writing History

*Writing History*, chap. 6-8
January 31: Summary
Julia Ott, *When Wall Street Met Main Street*

February 2: Asking Good Questions: Structure and Agency


February 7: Reviews: The Market Revolution

**Chapter summaries due in class (~100 words per chapter)**

February 9: Library Visit
*Writing History*, Chap. 1

**Learn how to conduct research in the archive and the library**

February 14: Reviews


Plus one more review that you must find and bring to class

February 16: Kheel Center trip
*Writing History*, Chap. 2-4

**Find primary sources for research paper and for close reading**

February 21: Problem and Outline
*Writing History*, Chap. 5-6

**Outline and Bibliography**

February 23: Primary Sources
*Writing History*, Chap. 9
Close reading of primary source from Kheel (250 words)
Notes from source

February 28: Slavery and Finance
Harold Woodman, *King Cotton and His Retainers: Financing and Marketing the Cotton Crop of the South, 1800-1925*

Chapter summaries due in class (~150 words per chapter)

March 1: Writing and Editing
*Writing History*, Chap. 10
Review of *King Cotton* due with discussion (1000 words)

March 6: The City and Finance
Group Review of *Monied Metropolis* and *King Cotton* due (1100 words)

March 8: First Page and Last Paragraph Discussion
First page and last paragraph due (~350 words)
Self-directed editing; Self-edit page due at end of class (in class)

March 13: The Corporation
Alfred Chandler, *Strategy and Structure*, Introduction, 1, 2, 3, 4
Revised First Page and Last Paragraph due (~350 words)

March 15: The Corporation, II
Alfred Chandler, *Strategy and Structure*, 6, 7
Making the argument for change: memo to corporate leaders on how they should change the organization of their businesses (based on Chandler) (500 words)

March 20, 22: Spring Break

March 27: Rough Draft discussion
Rough draft due in class (3750 words excluding footnotes)

March 29: Reading for Parallels
Susan Benson, *Counter Cultures: Saleswomen, Managers, and Customers in American Department Stores, 1890-1940*

April 3: Opinion: Work
Op-Ed using Benson’s history to discuss retail work and business today (750 words)

April 5: Financial Crisis


April 10: Opinion: Finance

**Position piece on lessons of financial crisis due (750 words)**

April 17: Presentation 1

April 19: NO CLASS

April 26: Presentation 2

May 1: Presentation 3

May 3: Writing and History: Learning From Revisions

May 10: Final Paper due