HIST 298 WEBSITE SCHEDULE AND REQUIREMENTS
(Fall 2020)

The website is not just a course project; it is also a learning exercise. Experiment; have fun.

**NOTE: The requirements below might seem arbitrary,
but they are designed to help students learn about options and gain experience.**

**Once HIST 298 is over,
students can change their websites in whatever ways they wish.**

IF USING 297 WEBSITE, IT MUST BE MODIFIED TO ORGANIZE 297 and 298 MATERIALS. (Example: website for this course.)

IF CREATING A TOTALLY NEW SITE, IT MUST INCLUDE A LINK TO THE 297 SITE OR INCLUDE 297 MATERIALS.

Website requirements:

-**THEME** SET

-DEFAULT **"CLUTTER"** REMOVED (e.g., remove "Hello World")

-**MAIN PAGE** "CLEANED UP":

> e.g., header, taglines, columns, and widgets set

> Header (image) must be changed

-ACTIVATION OF **PLUGINS**: e.g., Jetpack, Akismet, ReOrder Posts, Ultimate Category Excluder, Captcha, and Vanilla PDF Embed . . . or their equivalents)

> ** Students *MUST* use a plug-in (e.g., Ultimate Category Excluder) that allows them to prevent all posts from showing up on their home page.

> ➲ The front page *MUST* be limited to special items that every visitor should see. In other words, papers and powerpoints must appear only on the relevant menu pages. (This arrangement is one that students might want to change after the course.)

-**MENU** COMPLETED (it can always be changed)

> Menu should make *clear*—and make *easy to locate*—the course papers and the power points for 4-minute and 10-minute talks, as well as the map, gallery, timeline related to the research project, and any additional materials decided upon by the students (e.g., papers from other courses, a resumé, and personal images or writings).

> KEY: Think about what you want your website to say about you, to accomplish: how much about you, your interests, your accomplishments, your courses at UMW, HIST 298 in particular, etc. Unlike other materials about you on the internet, YOU CONTROL what your website says about you by what you make accessible to others, including possible employers and graduate schools, and how you present it.

> Menus *MUST* be clear to *any* user and *MUST* be easy to use. Anyone who happens upon a website *MUST* be able to understand it and find items without a hide-and-seek effort.

Suggested options:

--Main menu items = 297 and 298, with subsections under each for papers, power points, maps, timelines, galleries

--Main menu items = papers, power points, map, timeline, and gallery, with subsections under each for 297 and 298

--Main menu items = 297, 298, and "personal," with subsections for each type of work and for "resume," personal photos, and blog

--Main menu items = 297, 298, and other history/ UMW course work, with subsections under each

***--AT LEAST THREE **CUSTOMIZATIONS**. Examples include adding widgets (e.g., adding a clock or a calendar) and changing background or font colors, headers, feature images, menu location, etc.

Keep track of them; at the end of the semester, students must report what they did to make their websites their own.

 --**PAPERS POSTED** AS PDFS OR AS "CUT/PASTE" TEXTS OR AS WORD DOCUMENTS.

Determine method of posting not by what is easiest but by what is most logical for website's organization, menu structure, and creator's objectives.

TIP: It is easiest/clearest for a user if all papers (for example) are posted in the same way.

NOTE: If cut/paste, students _MUST_ use "read more" option after first key sentences or introductory paragraph.

And remember requirement to keep such assignments from appearing on the home page.

--CREATE AND POST:

–EVENT **TIME LINE** – which by the end of the semester must include:
  - o at least **6** items, _all_ with
    a) a title
    b) a useful, edited, proofread narrative
    c) an image or video
    d) source of image

    may include—as _extra_ entries—historiographical or bibliographical entries

--EVENT **MAP** – which by the end of the semester must include:
  - o at least **6** items, all with
    a) a title
    b) a useful, edited, proofread narrative
    c) an image

--**GALLERY** – which by the end of the semester must include:
  - o as _slide show_ (i.e., not just "stagnant" images) (might require a plugin) of at least **10** items --
    a) may include images from time line and map
    b) must have short, useful, proofread captions
    c) must include source of each image

--**PROOFREAD!** A CONSISTENT PROBLEM IN STUDENTS' WEBSITES EVERY SEMESTER IS PROOFREADING.

WRITE GRAMMATICAL, PROOFREAD (MORE THAN ONCE) CAPTIONS AND TIMELINE/MAP ENTRIES.

Errors are distracting and send a negative message about the website owner.

--**COMPLETE WEBSITE PEER REVIEWS:** As assigned, peer review a classmate's website. Read carefully; provide detailed feedback. Be the discriminating reader/user.

As she does with all of her 297/298 classes, the instructor will go over every website, looking to see if every requirement was completed and focusing on clarity and ease of use.

Poor proofreading and incorrect Chicago Manual formatting always stand out.

If something is <u>missing</u> or <u>done poorly</u> (including proofreading), it <u>will</u> affect the assignment's grade.