

## **Short Guide to WRITE Courses for Sophomore History Students**

### **Introduction**

HIST 2010 (American History I), HIST 2020 (American History II), and HIST 2030 (Tennessee History) are WRITE courses at Tennessee State University.

The goal of WRITE – which stands for Write » Reflect » Integrate » Transfer » Excel – is for students to become excellent writers by continuously building on abilities developed in ENGL 1010 and ENGL 1020 throughout their college experience.

Following on ENGL 1010 and ENGL 1020, the two-semester sophomore history survey is the second stage of WRITE. In addition to providing an introduction to U.S. or Tennessee history, these courses support students in improving their writing skills and preparing for the challenges of writing at an even more advanced level in their junior and senior-level courses.

The visible evidence of this process is the WRITE E-portfolio. In addition to their credits and grades, students successfully completing the sophomore history survey will have begun a digital portfolio including at least one artifact from each semester of the history survey showing the progress of their writing during their sophomore year.

### **Resources and Support**

- Preparation in the First-Year Writing Program

Course prerequisites for HIST 2010, 2020, and 2030 ensure that all students enter these courses having successfully completed TSU's First-Year Writing Program (ENGL 1010 and 1020) or its equivalent at another institution. Students in the sophomore history survey have therefore already demonstrated college-level writing ability.

- Limited Class Sizes

WRITE limits enrollment in the sophomore history survey to 25 students per section in order to provide for individual attention to the development of students as writers.

- Course Web Enhancement

All sections of the sophomore history survey are web-enhanced through eLearn ([elearn@tnstate.edu](mailto:elearn@tnstate.edu)), allowing students to submit writing assignments online, use "Turnitin" to avoid plagiarism, and to receive feedback from their instructors using WRITE's online assessment rubrics.

- Course-Embedded Writing Support

In preparing writing assignments, students in the sophomore history survey are supported

by the faculty and staff of the University Writing Center ([tsuwritingcenter.wordpress.com](http://tsuwritingcenter.wordpress.com)) and the WRITE Studio ([www.tnstate.edu/write](http://www.tnstate.edu/write)). Together these centers provide supplemental in-class instruction, out-of-class mentoring and tutoring, writing facilities on campus, and online resources.

### **E-portfolio Artifacts and Learning Outcomes**

As WRITE courses, HIST 2010, HIST 2020, and HIST 2030 provide significant opportunities for students to develop as writers. The syllabi for these courses require at least ten pages of out-of-class writing to achieve and demonstrate academic writing competency at the sophomore level.

As indicated above, at least one writing assignment, determined by the instructor in each section of the course, will become an artifact in the student's WRITE E-portfolio. This artifact should comprise at least five pages in length and demonstrate the following WRITE learning outcomes:

- **Statement of Purpose**

The student is able to distill a primary purpose into a single, compelling statement.

- **Organization**

The student is able to order major points in a reasonable and convincing manner based on that purpose.

- **Analysis and Argument**

The student is able to develop ideas using appropriate rhetorical patterns (e.g., narration, example, comparison/contrast, classification, cause/effect, and definition) in response a specific rhetorical situation.

- **Grammar and Mechanics**

The students is able to employ standard diction, syntax, usage, grammar, and mechanics.

- **Use of Sources**

The student is able to manage and coordinate basic information gathered from multiple sources.

A detailed description of each level of achievement (A, B, C, D, F) of these learning outcomes is provided in the WRITE Sophomore History Rubric available on eLearn.