

**Syllabus for American Heritage Course
Winter 2012, Washington Seminar, Lutheran Colleges**

Instructor for this course: John K. Maniha, PhD, CG
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Required texts for this course:

Val D. Greenwood, *Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, 3rd Edit.

Marsha Hoffman Rising, *The Family Tree Problem Solver*.

Note on the readings: they are designed to add to the lectures, to reinforce the lectures, and to act as reference material for the conduct of your research projects. Although you will not be tested on your memory of the content of these readings, you will be required to show in class that you have engaged the material in a serious way by noting down the *three most important things you learned from each of the assigned chapters*. You will bring your results to class, turn them in, and we will briefly discuss them at the end of the lecture. My hope is that you will read the material in a way that cements in your memory where you can go to get reference material on a particular subject. For example, I don't expect you to memorize what states provide mid-decade censuses, but that there are such things, that they may be helpful in a certain genealogical problem, and that one of your references tells you where you may expect to find such material.

From time to time I will be referring to a particular article or book or resource that illuminates a particular point I'm making in the lectures. I have tried to put that reference in a single place so that we don't waste time while I give you a detailed citation. Assume I have given you the reference already if I mention it in class.

From time to time, there will probably be other handouts I will give you as reference material for present or future use.

You will be evaluated on the basis of class participation and a project that you will choose in the form of a genealogical problem you will attempt to solve. You will be expected to attend class and will be graded on your attendance and participation. While the bulk of your final grade depends on the project, it will not be possible to get a top grade without good class participation and attendance. I will discuss with you in class the kinds of projects you may take on for the bulk of your grade, and the requirements for turning in a good project.

Jan 19 - Course housekeeping and Introduction to Genealogy
Greenwood: chap. 10; pp. 173-76.

Jan 26 - Detailed consideration of a case study typical in genealogy
Greenwood: chap. 7 (data interpretation)
Rising: chap. 1

Feb 2 - Evidence in genealogy and the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)
Rising: chap. 11; chap. 8

Feb 9 - Maps and geography; women in genealogical analysis; introduction to data
Rising: chap. 4

Feb 16 - Census and census substitutes
Greenwood: chaps 13 and 14
Rising: chap. 3

Feb 23 - Records of church and religion; military records; wills and probate
Greenwood: chap. 23; chaps. 25 and 26; chaps. 15, 16, and 17

Mar 1 - Passenger lists; naturalization; passports; vital data
Greenwood: chap. 24; chap. 12
Rising: chap. 2

Mar 8 - Court records; land records; tax records; cemeteries; newspapers
Greenwood: chaps. 18, 19, 20, 21; chap 27; pp. 197-200
Rising: chap. 5, chap. 7

Mar 15 - Some “exotic” sources for genealogical data
Rising: chap 6

Mar 22 - Internet search; data interpretation; females revisited; use of indirect
evidence to reach conclusions; getting started
Greenwood: pp. 167-73 (review); chap. 22
Rising: chap. 10

Mar 29 - Do I have illustrious ancestors? Do I have the right to bear a coat of arms?
Ethics in genealogy

Apr 5 - No class – made up by field trip; work on project: I will be available for
consultation

Apr 12 - No class – made up by field trip; work on project: I will be available for
consultation

Apr 19 - Class presentations of projects – even if only preliminary results are available.
Completed projects due no later than April 17th. I must turn grades in on April 19th and
will need to have read and graded your project by then.