



LIS 691: INDEPENDENT RESEARCH – GENEALOGY RESEARCH

1 or 3 credit hours

Spring 2022, January 19 – May 8

Last day to add/drop without financial penalty: January 26th

Contacting Your Instructor

Dr. Sarah R. Mangrum

Office: Fritzsche Gibbs Hall

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 9am - 1pm or by appointment

LIS Office Phone: 601-266-4228

Email: Sarah.Rials@usm.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This independent study focuses on genealogy resources and to demonstrate proficiency in genealogical research using the standards and guidelines of the National Genealogical Society:

www.ngsgenealogy.org.

Course objectives are for students to demonstrate a basic knowledge of:

- Basic purposes of genealogy
- Tools used in genealogical research
- Preparation of a genealogical report on a family or individual
- Collection and services of a specific genealogical collection.

Course Materials

- No required text; recommended text – [*Mastering Genealogical Proof*](#) by T.W. Jones
- [Start Your Genealogy Research](#) by NARA
- Students may use [FamilySearch.org](#), [Ancestry.com](#), or other genealogy tools.

Course Expectations

Remembering they are engaged in a quest for truth, family history researchers consistently:

- Record source for each item of information
- Seek original records
- State something as a fact only when supported by convincing evidence
- Limit with words like "probable" or "possible" any statement that is based on less than convincing evidence
- Recognize the collegial nature of genealogical research by placing copies in appropriate libraries or repositories
- Consider with open minds new evidence or the comments of others on their work

and the conclusions they have reached (SGS, 2002).

Course Assignments for 3 credit hours (Dates subject to revision)

Assignment	Due Date	Points	Rubric
Family tree	5/8	50	Written Communications Rubric
Genealogy Collection Paper	5/8	50	Written Communications Rubric

Course Assignment for 1 credit hour (Dates subject to revision)

Assignment	Due Date	Points	Rubric
Family tree	5/8	100	Written Communications Rubric



Course Withdrawal Policies

Last date to withdraw from class without penalty and without professor permission is January 26. Students may request, under extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control, an incomplete (I) if a majority of assignments have been completed. A student who receives an incomplete will have only ONE semester in which to complete the work before the Incomplete turns automatically into an F. Students may also request a W (withdrawal) from the course.

Class Policies

- Students are expected to follow the **Academic Code of Honor** based on academic honesty and mutual respect, the Southern Miss Creed.
- Students are responsible for reading syllabus content and becoming familiar with course policies and procedures. Students are required to use USM email and subscribe to lisnews.
- Participation grade consists of live classroom attendance/participation and discussion board postings. Students may make up one missed class by viewing the recorded session and sending a summary with comments to the professor. Students are expected to post to each discussion board; late postings may not earn full participation points.
- If a student commits plagiarism, that student will receive an F in the course. A student may not self-plagiarize or submit work done in another course without prior permission.
- All assignments should be in docx format and uploaded to Canvas. Failure to follow specific instructions for assignment content and formatting will result in lower grades.
- All work must be in Standard English; inappropriate grammar, punctuation, and/or spelling will result in lower grades.

Academic Integrity Statement

All students at USM are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

- Cheating (including copying from others' work)

- Plagiarism (representing another’s words or ideas as your own; failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts)
- Falsification of documents or conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct
- Disclosure of test or other assignment content to another student
- Submission of the same paper or assignment to more than one class without explicit approval of all faculty members involved
- Unauthorized academic collaboration with others.

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines a student has violated our Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including the receiving a grade of “XF” on the student’s transcript with notation “Failure due to academic misconduct.” For more details, please see the University’s Academic Integrity Policy: www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-acaf-pro-012.

Academic Support Resources

If a student believes they have a disability covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and makes them eligible to receive classroom accommodation, they should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information regarding registration. Disabilities covered by the ADA may include but are not limited to ADHD, learning disabilities, psychiatric disabilities, physical disabilities, chronic health disorders, pregnancies, temporary illnesses or injuries. Students are only required to disclose their disability to the Office for Disability Accommodations - all information submitted to ODA by the student is held with strict confidentiality.

ODA Contact information:

Southern Miss Office for Disability Accommodations

118 College Drive # 8586

Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Voice Telephone: 601.266.5024 or 228.214.3302 Fax: 601.266.6035

Individuals with hearing impairments should contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1.800.582.2233 (TTY) or email ODA at oda@usm.edu.

Mental Well-Being Statement

USM recognizes that students sometimes experience challenges - life stressors such as anxiety, depression, relationship problems, difficulty concentrating, alcohol/drug problems, or other stressful experiences are interfering with academic or personal success, consider contacting [Student Counseling Services](#) on campus at 601-266-4829. All students are eligible for free, confidential individual or group counseling services. *In the event of emergency, please call 911 or contact the counselor on call at 601-606-HELP (4357).*

Nondiscrimination Statement

The University of Southern Mississippi offers to all persons, equal access to educational, programmatic and employment opportunities without regard to age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy, gender identity, genetic information, religion, race, color, national origin, and/or veteran status pursuant to applicable state and federal law.

Special Health Protocol, Spring 2022

This semester, please follow our updated COVID-19 guidelines to ensure we remain as safe and healthy as we can during the continued pandemic. Our goals are to continue our in-person classes, hold events and activities on campus, and provide support to those in the community to weather the challenges we are facing.

Face-to-Face Protocol

We want everyone to follow the University's complete Community Standards, which are updated as needed based on changing patterns with the virus. Face coverings are required for all indoor activities, regardless of your vaccination status, and we ask that you monitor yourself for fever and other symptoms each day. Temperature-taking kiosks can be found in the Union, Cochran Center, and other high-traffic areas of our campuses for your convenience.

Vaccinations

If you have not yet been fully vaccinated, appointments can be made via Moffitt Health Center's online health portal. If you prefer to schedule an appointment off-campus, please see the Mississippi Department of Health's website. Please note that if it has been more than six months since your last shot, you must have a booster in order to be up-to-date with vaccination.

If You Are Exposed to COVID-19/Have Symptoms/Test Positive

It is important that everyone in the community closely monitor their own health and stay home when that will help them heal or may protect others.

- Vaccinated students: If you are exposed to COVID-19 and have no symptoms, wear a mask at all times and test five days after exposure. If your test is negative, continue as normal. If you have a positive COVID test, stay home for five additional days then return as long as you do not have symptoms (e.g., fever). If you have symptoms, stay home until your symptoms pass.
- Unvaccinated students: If you are exposed to COVID-19, stay home and test 5 days after exposure. If you have a positive COVID test, stay home for ten days (or as advised by your physician, based on symptoms), then return as long as you do not have symptoms (e.g., fever).

If you need to stay home due to COVID-19: Contact the Dean of Students office to let them know (dos@usm.edu), and contact all your professors to let them know you will be out.

In all cases: Call Moffitt Health Center at 601-266-5390 for further guidance.

Finding Support/Staying Well

Staying physically and mentally healthy is important and challenging during these pandemic times. Be sure to get enough sleep, eat regularly, and stay connected to loved ones, particularly during stressful periods. The university also has resources to help with stress management and mental health, including online support resources and in-person counseling through Student Counseling Services. Eagle CARES provides a platform for all students to connect with a 24/7 emotional support network online ([click here for more details](#)). Moffitt Health Center is also available to address your health care needs, with both appointments and online resources. If you have concerns about your well-being, reach out and let us know so that we can help.