Sample Research Plan Outline (HI 202H):

Research is a major activity of all historians. The best way to learn this scholarly activity is by doing it. So you can choose any topic in U.S. history after 1865 to explore. We will go through the research process during the semester and generate the following deliverables:

a. The first deliverable will be a 1 – 2 page research proposal. This document should provide background information on the topic you selected and identify the issue you plan to explore. The proposal should also include a bibliography that identifies at least one primary source and the major secondary (at minimum two books, two articles, and two online) sources you plan to use in your study.

b. The second deliverable will be a literature review. Other scholars probably have already delved into your topic. You need to understand their interpretations and the evidence they used so you can place your research project in context. The 2-3 page literature review should include all major interpretations of the topic.

c. The third deliverable will be a 10-12 research paper with a title page, notes, and a works cited page. Be sure your paper has a thesis, solid organization, and honors worthy writing, even for the draft paper. See Honors Rubric for guidelines on honors-level work.

d. The fourth deliverable will be a conference proposal. This one page document should summarize your project and make a case for why it is conference worthy.

e. The fifth deliverable will be an eight to nine (8-9) minute presentation with an electronic component (PowerPoint, video, web page). This is to be a summary of your findings in a story format. The entire project will be worth 35% of your course grade.