Assignment Objective:

A student learning outcome for HIST 210 is for students to research and write a major historical research paper under the guidance of a professional historian. As a student in this course, you will research and write your own research paper. The subject of your paper will be immigration to the United States, with a primary investigatory focus on one of the following three areas:

- A particular immigrant group (Chinese, Polish, Indian, etc.) in the United States
- Primary causes and effects of immigration to the United States
- A particular era of immigration (18th Century, Great Wave 1880-1924, post-1960, etc.) to the United States

Your paper will be centered on a thesis statement and supported by your evidence (sources) based on accepted and standard methodology used by professional historians. You will produce a written document and present your paper to your fellow learning peers. Historians learn as much from each other as they do their own research; it is therefore a requirement for this assignment that you are in class for all of your fellow student’s paper presentations.

Key Investigatory Questions:

Good historical research and writing starts with pertinent questions. You will answer the following questions based on which area you choose to focus your research on.

**Immigrant Group:**

- Who is the group you are researching, and when did this group come to the United States?
- Why did they come?
- Did they settle in particular areas or cities, why or why not?
- Did they work in a particular industry or industries, why or why not?
- What religion was this group (Christian [Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, etc.], Jewish, Muslim, etc.), and how important was religion to their community?
- Can we speak of an immigrant community forming and sustaining among these people?

**Causes and Effects of Immigration:**

- Historically, why has the United States been a desired destination for immigration?
- What have been the historic push factors causing immigrants to leave their home countries (labor migration, religious persecution, political freedom, war, etc.)?
- What have been the historic pull factors leading immigrants to the United States (economic developments, religious and political freedom, etc.)?
• What has been the net effect of immigration on the American economy, society, politics, and religious makeup?
• What has been the overall demographic change in America made by immigrants?
• How have immigrants been received by native-born Americans? What has been the roots of anti-immigrant backlash?

**Era of Immigration:**

• Select one of the following eras:
  o Pre-Independence
  o Early Republic Era (1790-1820)
  o 1820s-1860
  o 1865-1880
  o 1880-1924
  o post-1960
• Which group or groups of immigrants in particular came during this era, and why?
• Where did they settle, why?
• How were they received by native-born Americans? Was there a substantial xenophobic reaction?
• What was the overall demographic change in America made by this particular era of immigration?
• Was public policy (the law) changed to encourage or prevent immigration during this era?

The thesis and narrative of your paper will be built on the answers to these questions you obtain through your research.

**Evidence/Sources**

As this paper is a major research project completed in consultation with a professional historian, you will use sources of evidence that meet accepted scholarly standards within the academic discipline of history.

Your paper must use the following sources:

• A major monograph
• The United States Census (especially Statistical Abstracts and the University of Virginia *Historical Census Browser*)
• At least two (2) scholarly journal articles
• Other types of primary source evidence (such as contemporary newspaper articles, contemporary reports, Congressional testimony, personal writings, city directories, etc.)
• Scholarly websites (Wikipedia is NOT a scholarly website, nor is ask.com, yahoo answers, jeeves, etc.)
Examples of scholarly websites include (this is not an exhaustive list):

- An Interior Ellis Island from Michigan Technical University
- The Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan
- The Virtual Motor City through the Detroit News and Wayne State University
- The Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University

You are encouraged to also consider the following sources:

- History text books
- Encyclopedias
- Local Historical Societies (web content and personal visits)

Paper Construction/Style

Your paper will be constructed using the Chicago Manual of Style (this is different from APA or MLA), as this is the standard used in historical writing. Key components of the Chicago Manual of Style (also known as Turabian) method include using footnotes or endnotes for reference citations, and a complete bibliography of your sources. Your instructor will provide ample in-class instruction on using this method to write a research paper. Paper standards:

- A minimum of 7 sources
- 2,000 Words
- 12 point font, double spaced, 1” margins
- Footnotes or endnotes
- Bibliography
- Title page properly formatted
- Grading Rubric Sheet (provided by instructor) stapled to the front with student section filled out
- Free of typographical, grammatical, and stylistic errors

Due Date/Presentation to the Class

This paper is due at the beginning of class Tuesday, December 1. You will present your research to the class on December 1, 3, 8, or 10. As is stated at the beginning of the document, historians learn as much from each other as they do their own research; it is therefore a requirement for this assignment that you are in class for all of your fellow student’s paper presentations.

Graded Value

350 points out of 1,000 total for the course.
For your research paper, you will focus on one of the three areas outlined in the assignment guidelines handout. These three are Immigrant Group, Causes and Effects of Immigration, and Era of Immigration. Each of these three areas give you the opportunity to examine many of the important aspects of immigration. This handout gives you sample outlines for each of these subject areas. Remember, you are only writing your paper on ONE of these. Use this guide for ideas on how to structure your paper and how to narrow your focus sufficiently to manage this project.

**IMMIGRANT GROUP:**

I. Introduction with Thesis Statement

Tell about the immigrant group you are researching. Answer the questions you are going to address (from the assignment handout) in the form of an introduction and a thesis statement. This is where you are going to make your main argumentative points. For example, if you were doing a paper on the Polish immigrants from the years 1880-1924, your paper could begin with the following introduction inclusive of the following thesis statement:

In the years 1880-1924, millions of Europeans immigrated to the United States. One of the largest groups were the Poles. Poland had been undergoing a period of dramatic economic change which threw millions of peasants off their land. Without money or work, these Poles became one of the largest groups of labor migrants to come to the United States. Once arrived, most settled in the rapidly expanding industrial production centers of the Northeast and Midwest. This included cities such as Boston, Hoboken, Pittsburgh, Detroit, and Chicago, as well as the smaller industrial cities scattered throughout these regions. Indicative of the areas they settled in, most Polish immigrants became low skilled industrial workers, laboring in the coal mines, steel mills, meat packing plants, paper mills, and after about 1910, automobile factories. The Poles also carried with them their religion; making the Roman Catholic Church one of the most important aspects of the strong immigrant community they formed and sustained through multiple generations. The preponderance and veracity of Polish immigration to the United States during the years 1880-1924 makes this a group worth studying.

II. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Points One and Two from your introduction/thesis

In your introduction, you introduced all the main points you are going to argue. You want to devote one or two paragraphs to each of these main points in the body portion of your essay. Provide citations of the evidence you use (sources) in your body paragraphs to back your argumentation.

First two to four paragraphs: tell us about the group you are writing your paper on. Don’t spend too much time here, but provide enough information on why they left their homeland and came to the USA. I recommend one or two paragraphs on why they left their homeland, and two paragraphs or so on why they came to the United States. This is going to be closely tied into the next set of body paragraphs, as they reason most immigrants settle where they do is because of the kind of work they find.

III. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Point Three from your introduction/thesis

For the immigrant group focus, you next need to tell about where the group you have chosen to investigate settled, and why they settled there. This is closely tied to the question of why they came to the United States. Using the example of the Poles again, consider the following to start this set of paragraphs off:

Most of the Poles who immigrated to the United States during the years 1880-1924 became low-skilled industrial workers. The United States had a booming industrial economy creating a high demand for low
and unskilled workers. The growing industrial cities were mostly located in the northeast and Midwest, places like Pittsburgh and Chicago, for example. Therefore, as the Poles come to the United States and find employment in the industrial sector, they settle in these areas. The top ten cities in the United States for Polish immigrants were all major industrial cities. These include...

IV. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Point Four from your introduction/thesis

Here you are going to write a couple paragraphs on what industries the group you have chosen worked in. Depending on what group you are writing on, you may discover that many of these folks worked in the same industries. For example, if you chose to investigate the Chinese who came to the USA in the 1860s-1880s, you would discover that these folks were by and large railroad workers. The beginning of a sample paragraph would look something like:

Between the 1860s and early-1880s hundreds of thousands of Chinese immigrants were recruited by railroad companies to work on the expanding American rail network. In the decade after the Civil War, railroad companies constructed thousands of miles of track, including the first transcontinental railroads connecting the eastern and western parts of the country. This brought a substantial influx of Chinese immigrants to the United States...

V. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Point Five from your introduction/thesis

In this section, you are going to continue expanding on your thoughts from the introduction. For this area of focus, you are on what religion was this group (Christian [Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, etc.], Jewish, Muslim, etc.), and how important was religion to their community?

The Irish were among the very first Roman Catholics to come to what would later develop into the United States. In a majority Protestant nation, this would eventually present problems, as the Irish faced an incredible amount of anti-Catholic bigotry. However, Catholicism was an essential part of Irish culture, and became equally important to the Irish-American communities that grew throughout the 1700s in places like Boston, New York, and Philadelphia...

VI. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Point Six from your introduction/thesis

In your last body paragraph(s), you will assess what kind of communities the immigrant group you are studying formed. This includes fraternal organizations, sodalities, clubs, or ethnic neighborhoods they were a part of. Most immigrants who came to the United States were part of these types of community groups, and many lived in ethnic neighborhoods. Here you may find it most useful to focus on one of these particular aspects. For example, if you were studying Hungarian immigrants, you may begin your paragraph with the following:

Hungarians, like most ethnic immigrants, settled in ethnic communities and neighborhoods. A good example of this is the Delray neighborhood in southwest Detroit. Although it now contains a fraction of its former population, at the turn-of-the-last century, this part of Detroit was teeming with Hungarians and other immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe. As in other ethnic neighborhoods...

VII. Conclusion

Now that you have argued in detail all the main points from your thesis in the introduction, you need to include a conclusion that wraps up what you just stated and reaffirms your main argumentative points from the thesis. A paragraph or two will suffice.
CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF IMMIGRATION:

I. Introduction

Begin with a general statement about the causes and effects of immigration to the United States. Then, state specifically which causes and effects of immigration you are going to focus on. Answer the questions you are going to address (from the assignment handout) in the form of an introduction and a thesis statement. This is where you are going to make your main argumentative points. For the focus area of cause and effects, an introductory paragraph and thesis statement could look something like this:

Historically the United States of America has been one of the key destinations for immigrants from around the world. Some of the most important historic causes, or push factors, of immigration to the United States include labor migration, religious freedom, political freedom and the seeking of refuge from war. These elements pushing immigrants to the United States have often times coincided with factors pulling people away from their home such as economic opportunity in America, and the promise of safety, political, and religious freedom. Over the course of American history, the millions of immigrants who have come for these reasons have had a tremendous impact on the American economy, society, politics, and the nation’s religious makeup, constituting a major demographic change. Anti-immigrant backlash has often resulted from these substantial changes. This paper will discuss all of these important causes and effects of immigration to the United States.

II. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Point One from your introduction/thesis

This is your first main body section. You are going to take two or three paragraphs and explain why the United States historically has been a desired destination for immigration, as this is the first major statement you make in the introduction/thesis. This section might begin with the following type of information:

Historically there have been many reasons why the United States has been a desired destination for immigrants. America as a destination for immigrants is in some ways rooted in the founding principles of the nation, but can also be traced back to the colonial era of American history. Historically, the United States has attracted many immigrants because of the economic opportunities the nation has offered, political and religious freedom and as a refuge for those fleeing conflicts abroad...

III. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Points Two and Three from your introduction/thesis

In this next body section, you will write paragraphs explaining what the historic push factors leading immigrants out of their countries, and pull factors attracting them to the United States have been. This is similar to the point in the above paragraph; however, you are arguing for a more specific causality. Devote equal time to summarizing why immigrants leave their home countries and why they chose to come to the United States. Remember to argue all of your thesis points with evidence and cite your sources. A sample paragraph might begin with something along the lines of:

Labor migration, religious persecution, political freedom, and war have all been realities of life pulling immigrants away from their home countries. In times where these factors have coexisted with expanding economic opportunities in the United States, this has led to an increase in immigration...

IV. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Points Four and Five from your introduction/thesis

In choosing to write a paper on the cause and effects of immigration, you will focus on the effects of immigration on the American economy, society, politics, and religious makeup. These are the same points outlined in the
assignment handout. You will want to devote adequate space for this, probably three to five paragraphs. You may begin this section with a section of prose similar to the following:

Immigration has had a tremendous impact on all aspects of the United States. This is evident not only in the demographic changes to the American population, but also in how immigrants have shaped the economy, politics, and the religious makeup of the country. Overall, each successive wave has reshaped American society...

V. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Point Six from your introduction/thesis

In this last main body paragraph section, you are going to explain how anti-immigrant backlash, or xenophobia has been an important part of the American immigration experience. Use specific examples to prove your assertions here. You want to explain what is meant by anti-immigrant backlash, xenophobia, and why and how nativism has historically been an important response to immigration. Sample beginning to this section:

Xenophobia and Nativism have risen and fallen with each successive wave of immigration to the United States....

VI. Conclusion

Now that you have argued in detail all the main points from your thesis in the introduction, you need to include a conclusion that wraps up what you just stated and reaffirms your main argumentative points from the thesis. A paragraph or two will suffice.
Era of Immigration:

I. Introduction

Remember, if you chose to write your paper on the Era of Immigration focus, you are going to choose one era of immigration (from the list on the assignment handout) to write your paper on. Begin with a general statement about which era of immigration to the United States you are going to focus on. Then, state specifically which nationalities came to the United States during this era. Answer the questions you are going to address (from the assignment handout) in the form of an introduction and a thesis statement. This is where you are going to make your main argumentative points. For example, if you were going to write a paper on the era of immigration of the pre-independence era, an introductory paragraph and thesis statement could look something like this:

The United States has seen successive waves of immigration throughout its history, leading to the composite national makeup of the country in the twenty-first century. Yet, even before independence, when the lands of America were colonies of Great Britain, France, and Spain, America was a destination for immigrants. In the pre-independence era, immigrants came predominately from the colonial mother countries such as the Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales) France, and Spain, but also from Ireland and Germany. These immigrants came predominately for economic opportunities, and seeking religious freedoms. Their settlement was scattered throughout the colonies; however, certain ethnic groups such as the Irish and Germans tended to settle in somewhat homogenous ethnic communities. Immigration during this time period led to some of the first xenophobic reactions, especially against Catholic Irish and Germans, and had a substantial demographic as well as legal impact. This paper will explore these important aspects of immigration during the pre-independence era in American history.

II. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Points One and Two from your introduction/thesis

This is your first main body section. You are going to take the first two points of your thesis/introduction and argue them with supporting evidence (sources which you cite). To do this, you need to briefly explain the era you are examining and what groups of immigrants came during this time period. For example, if you chose the 1880-1924 period, you would begin this section with prose along the lines of the following:

Between 1880 and 1924, the United States saw millions of immigrants arrive on her shores. Most of these immigrants came in search of work, and are therefore properly referred to as labor migrants. Labor migration during these years to the United States came primarily from Eastern and Central Europe, places such as Poland, Greece, Russia, Hungary, Romania, and Italy. However, during these years there remained substantial immigration from the previously traditional sources of movement to the United States including Germany, Britain and Ireland...

III. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Point Three from your introduction/thesis

In the next main body section of your paper, you will move down the list of points outlined in your thesis/introduction. For the focus on an era of immigration, you third argumentative point will be explaining where the immigrants settled. For the sake of example, say you are writing on the era from 1865-1880. As the Irish and Chinese were a substantial immigrant group during this era, a sample beginning to this section could be as follows:

In the decade and a half following the American Civil War, the Irish and Chinese comprised two substantial groups of ethnic immigrants to the United States. As many of these folks were recruited to work for the railroads, they tended to live in places of expanding railroad construction. In the case of the Irish, they also settled into cities where substantial Irish-immigrant populations already existed...
IV. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Points Four from your introduction/thesis

For the Era of immigration focus, you will also include in your paper an explanation of how immigrants were received by native-born Americans and whether or not there was a substantial xenophobic reaction. This is also one of the main points of your thesis, and therefore it needs to be adequately argued. If you chose the pre-independence era, for example, much of your focus will be on the anti-German and anti-Irish (especially Irish) sentiment that developed where these folks settled. Most of the backlash against these folks was because of their religion, Roman Catholicism. Other eras had their own substantial xenophobic waves; however, religious bigotry has been a constant part of intolerance in American history. This section will vary depending on what era you focus on (see handout). Sample beginning to this section:

By 1900, millions of immigrants had already come to the United States. Many of those arriving in the two decades prior were Catholic, Orthodox, or Jewish. This upset the notion held by native-born Americans that the United States was a Protestant nation. Anti-Catholic bigotry became an important component to nativism, one reaction to the wave of immigration...

V. Main Body Argumentative Paragraphs: Points Five and Six from your introduction/thesis

Here you will argue the last two points of your thesis outlined in the introduction to your paper. In following the assignment guidelines handout in constructing your thesis, your last two points to explain are the demographic and any public policy (legal) changes brought on by immigration from the era you are writing about. If you chose the post-1960 years for example, you may begin this section with something similar to the following:

Congress had established a long record of conceding to the nativist sentiment rife with each successive era of immigration, creating a substantial, and sometimes complicated set of laws regulating who could legally come to the United States. As immigration during this era tended to focus on arrivals from Latin America, Congress in time would turn its focus to America’s southern borders. For example, by 1980, millions of Americans could now trace their ancestry to Mexico...

VI. Conclusion

Now that you have argued in detail all the main points from your thesis in the introduction, you need to include a conclusion that wraps up what you just stated and reaffirms your main argumentative points from the thesis. A paragraph or two will suffice.