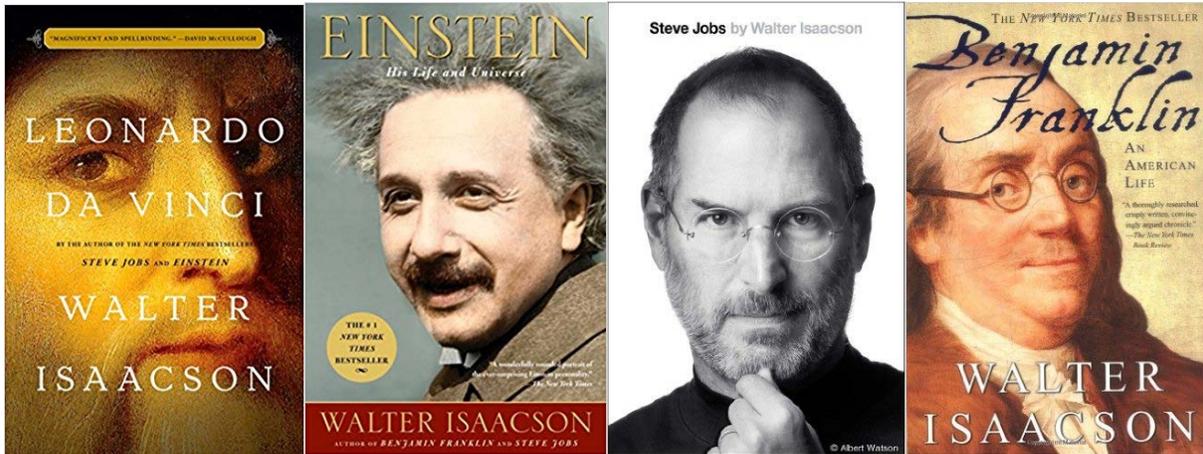


HISU 3910: Writing Biography

Professor Walter Isaacson

Mondays, 3-5:30pm



This seminar will explore the writing of biography and narrative history. Students will study the different techniques of writing for popular and scholarly audiences, using my own and other more academic books as examples. Then each student will write a biographical 4,000-word study of a chosen subject using New Orleans archives, primary sources, secondary sources, and interviews. The focus will be on how to produce a carefully researched and edited work of narrative that provides rigorous training in writing skills.

This is a small, discussion-based, writing-intensive class. Students are admitted into the seminar by application only. *Preference will be given to rising sophomores.*

Applications should be submitted by email to: Lindsey Billips, Lbillips@tulane.edu.

Applications are due on: Monday, April 9th.

Students will be notified if they have been accepted into the class by Monday, April 23rd.

HISU 3910: Writing Biography
Professor Walter Isaacson

Application: Due April 9th

Personal Information:

Name: _____

Year: _____

Major/Minor: _____

A. Short Essay:

In one to two paragraphs, please describe a historical figure you would like to profile in a biographical paper. The subject should preferably be someone from New Orleans or nearby who lived between the 1870s and 1970s, so that you can make use of local archives such as the Historic New Orleans Collection, the Hogan Jazz Archives, the local newspaper archives, etc. In addition, you can use other primary or secondary sources or interviews.

You can come up with your own subject, but possible examples could include: Louis Armstrong, Buddy Bolden, Lulu White, Sidney Story, Josie Anderson, William Faulkner, Sherwood Anderson, Tennessee Williams, Dutch Morial, Homer W. Plessey, Tom Anderson, Kate Chopin, Moon Landrieu, Chep Morrison, Edith Stern, Edward Douglas White, Archie Manning, John Minor Wisdom, F. Edward Hebert, Lindy Boggs, Huey Long, Earl Long, Emma Barrett, and Sandra Jaffe.

As you can tell, this eclectic list has a lot of obscure people you've likely never heard of; the point is that you can pick anyone you want, famous or obscure.

B. Personal Essay

Please include a paragraph about yourself, your academic interests, and your interest in history.

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