

BYU Religion 261
Introduction to LDS Family History (Genealogy)
Fall 2003

Section 1: M/W 8:00-8:50 a.m., Room 174 JSB
Section 7: M/W 11:00-11:50 a.m., Room 171 JSB

Course Description:

An introduction to the family history program of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with an emphasis on identifying ancestors for whom temple ordinances have not been completed, as well as the use of Church resources to support temple and family history research activities. The history of temples and temple ordinances and the importance of life-long personal involvement in family history will be examined.

Instructor:

Roger P. Minert, Ph.D., A.G. JSB 210L 422-2370
Website: www.rogerpminert.com Office hours: M 2-4, T 12-2, Th 10-11
Email: rpm@byu.edu (please enter 261-1, i.e., 261-7 on the subject line).

Texts: (all available in the BYU Bookstore)

Boyd K. Packer, *Preparing to Enter the Holy Temple*

BYU Dept. of Church and Doctrine: Packet *Religion 261: Introduction to LDS Family History (Genealogy)*

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: *Temples of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

Family History Lab:

Students are required to participate in the Family History Lab program for Religion 261 by attending the instruction sessions. The lab is located in Room 102 JSB. There are six (6) lessons that correspond to topics discussed in class. Attendance at lab sessions is recorded and reported to the instructor. Numerous sessions are offered for each of the six (6) lessons. Schedules are found at http://familyhistory.byu.edu/labs/j_schedule.asp and on the door at 102 JSB. Students for whom lab attendance is impossible should consult with the instructor.

Assignments:

All assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the date indicated below. All assignments will show the following in the upper left corner of the first page: the name of the student, the course and section numbers, the due date, and the assignment number. The number of points possible is shown below. **Late assignments** will lose 20% per week day unless the student presents an excuse acceptable to the instructor. Extra credit is not available for this course.

Testing:

Two (2) mid-term exams will be given in the Testing Center. The first mid-term is to be taken on 10-11 February (late day: 12 February *until 3 p.m.*) and the second mid-term is to be taken on 16-17 March (late day: 18 March *until 3 p.m.*).

The final exam will be given in the classroom on Friday, 16 April from 3 to 6 p.m. (Section 7), and Saturday, 17 April from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. (Section 1). Please plan to take the final exam with your assigned section.

Course Grade:

Class attendance	20%
FH Lab	10
Assignments	40
Mid-term exam 1	10
Mid-term exam 2	10
Final exam	<u>10</u>
	100%

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
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98-	A
96-	A-
94-	B+
92-	B
90-	B-
88-	C+
86-	C
84-	C-
82-	D+
80-	D
78-	D-
Below 78	E

Ave. for previous courses: B+/A-

Syllabus Revisions:

Changes to the above standards will only be made with sufficient notice to the students. Changes to the class schedule shown below may be required or appropriate in response to unforeseen events or student needs.

University Standards:

The BYU Honor Code and university standards as defined in the official University literature will be valid for this course.

Instructor Consultation:

The instructor is available for personal or group consultation during the hours listed above. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this option — especially in cases where assignments do not seem to be applicable and alternates need to be determined.

Instruction Schedule:

<i>Day & Date</i>	<i>Class Discussion Topics</i>	<i>Pre-discussion Readings</i>
Mon 5 Jan	Course introduction; standards and procedures	<i>[Procure the course literature!]</i>
Wed 7 Jan	Introduction to family history research	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapters 1, 2
Mon 12 Jan	Biography, oral history, personal history timeline, writing personal and family histories	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapter 8 and App. D
Wed 14 Jan	<i>Personal Ancestral File (PAF) 5.0</i> , introduction	<i>Syllabus</i> App. E
<i>Mon 19 Jan</i>	<i>No class – holiday</i>	
Wed 21 Jan	<i>PAF 5</i> (continued)	<i>Syllabus</i> App. C
Mon 26 Jan	<i>Ancestral File, Pedigree Resource File</i>	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapter 17
Wed 28 Jan	<i>International Genealogical Index (IGI), Ordinance Index, Temple Records Index Bureau (TIB)</i>	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapter 12
Mon 2 Feb	<i>Social Security Death Index</i> ; other <i>FamilySearch</i> data bases	<i>Syllabus</i> App. G (Hunter)
Wed 4 Feb	GEDCOM processes	App. A (<i>Handbook of Instructions</i>)
Mon 9 Feb	Review	
<i>10-12 Feb</i>		<i>Mid-term 1 in Testing Center</i>
Wed 11 Feb	Family History Library; Family History Library Catalog (FHLC), family history centers	<i>Syllabus</i> App. H (Christofferson)
Mon 16 Feb	<i>No Class—Holiday</i>	
<i>Tue 17 Feb</i>	Internet family history websites – introduction	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapter 16
Wed 18 Feb	Internet – continued	<i>[student website demonstrations]</i>
Mon 23 Feb	Preparing names for temple work, <i>TempleReady</i>	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapter 11
Wed 25 Feb	The family history research process	App. M (Family Proclamation)
Mon 1 Mar	U.S. census records and Soundex system – introduction	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapter 13, App. P
Wed 3 Mar	U.S. census records and Soundex system (continued); using the Harold B. Lee Library (UVRFHC) for census research	<i>Syllabus</i> App. N, O
Mon 8 Mar	Vital records (government and church)	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapter 14
Wed 10 Mar	Military records, deeds, probates, county histories	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapter 15 (149-153)

Mon 15 Mar	Review	
16-18 Mar		<i>Mid-term 2 exam in Testing Center</i>
Wed 17 Mar	Finding an immigrant's place of origin: immigration and naturalization records	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapter 15 (145-149)
Mon 22 Mar	Conducting research in the immigrant's place of origin	<i>Researching in Germany</i> , pg. 1-3 (handout)
Wed 24 Mar	Ancient temples, doctrinal and historical background	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapters 3, 4
Mon 29 Mar	Modern temples, doctrinal and historical background	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapter 5, 6 Packer 1-16
Wed 31 Mar	Temple worship	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapter 7 Packer 16-28
Mon 5 Apr	Family history centers; family history consultants, extraction programs, family organizations	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapters 9, 10; Packer 28-37
Wed 7 Apr	Life-long family history service	<i>Syllabus</i> Chapter 18; App. B, K
Mon 12 Apr	Life-long family history service (cont.)	<i>Syllabus</i> App. F (Oaks) last day for (late) assignments
Fri 16 Apr	Final exam 3 - 6 p.m. in 171 JSB	Section 7 students only
Sat 17 Apr	Final exam 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. in 174 JSB	Section 1 students only

Assignments

If any of the following assignments cannot be completed due to circumstances beyond your control (e.g., your ancestors are from Antarctica and no vital records have ever been recorded there), you will need to consult with the instructor about an alternate assignment. The point value of each assignment is given in italics in the **No.** column.

No.	Due	Description
6 12 13 14	9 Feb 22 Mar 29 Mar 5 Apr	Study the requirements for these assignments and schedule their completion!
1 <i>30</i>	12 Jan Mon	Research status: Determine the status of family history research in your family (what information has been collected and where it is); summarize this information in a one-page report. Attach a 4-generation chart with you as person no. 1 (this may be handwritten). Alternate assignments can be designed for foreign students.
2 <i>30</i>	21 Jan Wed	Course goals: Submit a statement describing why you enrolled in Religion 261 (maximum: 1 page). Include a description of three (3) goals you wish to achieve in this course. Remember that you will report in Assignment 15 on your progress and success in achieving those goals.
3 <i>30</i>	26 Jan Mon	Personal Ancestral File: Using PAF 5, establish a file for your family with you as person no. 1 (RIN 1). Enter as much vital data as possible about you, your parents, and both sets of grandparents. Submit a pedigree chart printed from that file with you as person no. 1, featuring four generations (the fourth may be empty).
4 <i>30</i>	2 Feb Mon	1) Ancestral File or Pedigree Resource File: Submit a printout from AF or PRF showing four generations of your ancestors, beginning with a relative of your choice OR the same kind of printout for any person you wish (Abraham Lincoln, Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, etc.). 2) Ordinance Index: Verify temple ordinances for one or more individuals. You may do this for your own ancestors or for any other persons of your choice. Submit printouts showing a) one person's individual ordinances, b) a sealing to a spouse, and c) a sealing of a child to his/her parents.
5 <i>30</i>	9 Feb Mon	GEDCOM: Using the people from assignment 4 part 1 (above), make a GEDCOM file including four generations. Import that GEDCOM file into a PAF file. Print and submit a PAF pedigree chart as evidence of successful transfer. Re-submit the pedigree chart used for Assignment 4 part 1.
6 <i>30</i>	9 Feb Mon	Family History Center: Attend an orientation session in the Family History Center (HBLL, Level 2). Sessions are held during the week and on the 2 nd and 4 th Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Go to the Family History Reference Desk to register or call 422-6200. Hand in a description (maximum: 1 page) of what you learned (observation? surprises? disappointments?)
7 <i>30</i>	17 Feb Tue	FamilySearch: 1) Locate one book that features the surname of one of your ancestors (or other persons of your choice); submit a printout showing the FHLC details of the book. 2) Submit a printout from <i>Locality search</i> showing the details on a record source you might use. 3) Submit a printout showing the data available on one person in the Social Security Death Index.

8 30	18 Feb Wed	Internet: Identify and visit one Internet website that features records you might need to search for data on your ancestors. Print out and submit one page showing the address and some features of this website. Do not use sites listed on 160-161 of the <i>Syllabus</i> . Be prepared to show this website in class on 18 February.
9 30	1 Mar Mon	Temple names submission: From the PAF data compiled for previous assignments, select one family or one individual and use TempleReady to submit the name(s) for ordinance work; submit the TempleReady printout "Submission Report" as evidence of your work, but <i>do not send the diskette to the temple unless genuinely qualified</i> .
10 30	8 Mar Mon	Census: 1) Find an individual or family of your ancestors (or possible ancestors) in a census of 1870 or earlier; submit a copy of the page from the index book and of the actual census page from microfilm. 2) In Ancestry.com, use an index to find an individual or a family of your ancestors in the 1920 or 1930 census; submit a) a copy of the index page with positive search results and b) a printout showing the actual census image. You will hand in a total of four (4) pages.
11 30	15 Mar Mon	Timeline: Construct and submit a timeline that runs from the year of your birth to the present. Write a phrase or two about activities or events you remember in the winter, spring, summer, and fall of each year, if possible. Consult any documents or persons you wish in compiling the information.
12 30	22 Mar Mon	Biography: Write and submit a four-page account of the life of your mother, your father, or any other <i>living</i> family member at least one generation older than you. Describe in an endnote the source(s) of your information.
13 60	29 Mar Mon	Original records: (<i>Do the following in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City</i>): Select one or more ancestor(s) for whom vital data have not been found. Use the FHLC "locality" section to identify vital or other records; locate and search those records in the Library; submit a report (maximum: 2 pages) about your search process and the results; attach FHLC printouts on the records used in your search. <i>This project involves at least three (3) hours in the FHL.</i>
14 50	5 Apr Mon	Personal history: Begin (or continue) your personal history by writing five (5) <i>new</i> short essays about events or experiences in your life. Each essay should be a minimum of 500 words in length. You may write more than five such essays, but submit only five that may be read by the instructor, i.e., that do not contain details you do not wish the instructor to see. OR: Personal journal: Write ten (10) personal journal or diary entries during the course of the semester – each on a different day. These entries will not be read by the instructor, but you will be required to certify that you fulfilled the assignment as defined.
15 30	12 Apr Mon	Goals: Submit a one-page description of the progress you have made in achieving the three goals you established in Assignment 2. Describe any adjustments you may have made in those goals during the semester and the reasons for the changes.