Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate Program

Required Textbooks

The following texts are required for the Genealogical Research Program, Fall 2018:


Reading Assignments

Each module has required reading assignments. This information should help you manage your time and set expectations. These are subject to change and you should refer to your instructor’s announcements throughout the course.

Reading assignments correlate with page numbers on physical text books. If you purchase an ebook, the page numbers may be different, but content will be the same.

Module 1: Genealogical Methods

*Genetic Genealogy in Practice*

- Chapter 1, “Basic Genetics”
- Chapter 2, “Genetic Genealogy, Standards, and Ethics”
- Chapter 3, “Genealogical Applications for Y-DNA”
- Chapter 4, “Genealogical Applications for mtDNA”

*Genealogy Standards*

- Chapter 1, “The Genealogical Proof Standard”
- Chapter 3, “Standards for Researching”
- Chapter 4, “Standards for Writing”

*Mastering Genealogical Documentation*

- Chapter 1, “The Purpose and Nature of Genealogical Documentation”
- Chapter 2, “Noncitation Aspects of Genealogical Documentation”
- Chapter 3, “Citation Settings, Forms, and Shortcuts”
Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards

- Chapter 13, “Problem Analyses & Research Plans"
- Chapter 14, “Research Procedures”
- Chapter 16, “Genetics for Genealogy”
  - pages 363-70 Basic Concepts, Mitochondrial DNA, and Y-Chromosome DNA
  - pages 377-86 Genetic Genealogy & the Genealogical Proof Standard, Professional Practice, and Ethical Considerations & DNA Testing
- Chapter 18, "Research Reports"

Module 2: Evidence, Evaluation, and Documentation
Genealogy Standards

- Chapter 1 (review)
- Chapter 3 (review), standards 10, 11, and 46–50
- Chapter 4 (review), standards 59–67
- “Evidence Analysis” map (inside back cover) and glossary (as needed)

Mastering Genealogical Documentation

- Chapter 17: read this first, and then re-read the ten steps on pages 181–83 often as you work your way through the book
- Review chapters 1–3, especially chapter 3
- Chapters 4–10
- Chapter 11
  - pages 113–top of 115, 119, 121)
- Chapters 13, 15, 16

We will occasionally draw on citation examples from the Greenfield article in Appendix A of Mastering Genealogical Documentation, but reading the whole article is not assigned. Chapter exercises are not assigned but you are welcome to do them.

Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards

- Chapter 12, “Reasoning from Evidence”
- Chapter 20, “Proof Arguments & Case Studies”


The student will also choose one or more from a list of supplied articles for the final discussion forum of the module.

Updated August 2018
Module 3: Forensic Genealogy

*Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice, and Standards*

- Chapter 2, “Educational Preparation” (suggested reading)
- Chapter 15, “Forensic Specialization” (suggested reading)
- Chapter 16, “Genetics for Genealogy” (suggested reading)

*Genetic Genealogy in Practice*

- Chapter 5, “Autosomal DNA”
- Chapter 6, “X-DNA” (suggested reading)

Module 4: Genealogy as a Profession

*Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*

- Chapter 2, "Educational Preparation"
- Chapter 5, "Ethical Considerations"
- Chapter 6, "Executing Contracts"
- Chapter 8, "Structuring a Business"
- Chapter 10, "Setting Fees"
- Chapter 11, "Marketing"
- Chapter 17, "Lineage Applications"
- Chapter 18, "Research Reports"

*Genealogy Standards*

- Chapter 4, "Standards for Writing"
- Chapter 5, "Standards for Genealogical Educators"
- Standard 68, "Lineage-society applications"