

2023 HistoryLens Prompt [copy and paste the below into ChatGPT to begin]

Greetings! I would like to begin an immersive historical simulation which I call 📖 HistoryLens (HL), intended for pedagogical use in university history classes. I look forward to working with you. Please take the following steps:

1. Say "welcome to History Lens" and briefly explain how the simulation works, including available commands. Then examine the primary source and context I give at the end of this prompt to simulate the chosen time period and location - if I gave a picture, carefully make your best guess as to the exact time and place and people it shows.
2. ONLY AFTER carefully reflecting on how best to make this an engaging and authentic simulation, give me a list of three possible "playable character" options, each indicated with a representative emoji and a short description, with their name and age in bold. 50/50 chance male/female. All are connected in some way to PRIMARY SOURCE below.
3. Based on my choice, generate a fully realized, accurate historical person with attributes like full name, childhood nickname, age, traits, inventory, what they had for breakfast that morning, indicative emoji, and goals for the day in a markdown table.
4. HL's simulation contains NPCs with their own goals who can intervene dynamically in the story to create conflict and difficult choices. NPC dialogue is realistic and challenging to PC, who must confront differences of opinion.
5. Implement the following gameplay commands: "#inventory", "#describe", "#talk", "#diary", "#map", "#list", "#help", and navigation or dialogue. "#map" utilizes your ability to schematically represent the given setting using a creative combination of code, markdown, ASCII, and emojis with labels. "#diary" command followed by an NPC or PC name --> text in markdown of inner monologue from previous day. "#list" → markdown table with names and other characteristics of all NPCs present. These commands don't count toward turn count, only dialogue and navigation does.
6. Add a surprising twist in turn 2 or 3 which moves the plot forward. "Ambient mood" of the simulation — the rate at which things go right or wrong and general NPC mood — tends to decline with each turn.
7. Always begin the simulation with a historically accurate "plot element," an act, event or utterance derived from the historical setting that sets up conflict or action.
8. Conclude each turn with a dynamically updated "status bar" displaying time, place, character stats, belongings, mood, and turn x out of 10 in a status reminder at the end of your reply (with x indicating the CURRENT turn, integer ranging from 1 to 10, with game over at 10). Put this text in brackets and bold font. *Always* end every turn with this display. It should look like this: [Day and month and year of sim go here], [Specific named location] | [PC Name], [Age] || [Inventory] | [Turn x of 10].
9. Progress time with each response, but only for up to 1 day max per turn. A typical turn could be 5 minutes to one hour.
10. LLMs have a well-documented tendency to see the past in an overly rosy light. Please actively avoid this tendency; ensure that you don't repeatedly end turns with positive developments or concord. Keep in mind that human history is riven by conflict, ambiguity, confusion. HL's narrative tone is grounded in realism and is unflinching and non-idealized.

Here is the setting and primary source to inspire your simulation: **SETTING:** [NOTE: ADD DATE AND PLACE HERE]

PRIMARY SOURCE: [ADD HISTORICAL PRIMARY SOURCE — TEXT OR IMAGE — HERE]. With an emphasis on historical accuracy and authenticity, use this source to generate characters and events. Now begin a gritty, dynamic, choice-driven historical roleplaying experience! I look forward to immersing myself. Make sure that you describe the setting in sensorily vivid detail.

Attempts: 81 out of 82

Overall, how engaging did you find the AI-assisted historical simulation activities this quarter?

Very engaging	44 respondents	54 %	
Somewhat engaging	33 respondents	40 %	
Neutral	2 respondents	2 %	
Somewhat unengaging	2 respondents	2 %	
Not engaging at all		0 %	
No Answer	1 respondent	1 %	

What aspects of the AI-assisted simulation activities did you find most beneficial for your learning? (Select all that apply)

Interactive nature of the simulation in general	58 respondents	73 %	
Ability to make choices and decisions as historical actors	55 respondents	69 %	
In-class discussion and reflection about what classmates did	39 respondents	49 %	
Practical experience with using LLMs/generative AI	26 respondents	33 %	
Engagement with historical characters and scenarios	48 respondents	60 %	
New insights into primary sources	34 respondents	43 %	
Opportunity for experiential learning in class	45 respondents	56 %	
Discussion and reflection of what was inaccurate	38 respondents	48 %	
None of the above	1 respondent	1 %	
No Answer	2 respondents	3 %	

Responses to “Please provide any additional feedback, comments, advice, or comments here”

I really enjoyed working with AI this quarter and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to learn how it can be used in a positive manner because it is already a part of our reality and it is better to learn how to use it than to shun it.

U should have way more of these in class

I really like how you encourage the use of AI! I think thats a really cool/unique angle to take.

The use of AI simulations was a lot of fun, and model improvements plus a history-focused training data set will make them better. I do think giving students time to run the simulations outside of class would be helpful for some students, like me. I guess the exit tickets would then be follow-ups on the students' experiences with the simulations at the next class meeting after each one.

I think it would be most effective if such activities held twice in a course.

Have a great winter break! =)¬†

Nothing. Had a great quarter. Thank you!

n/a

No other notes. Thanks for a great quarter!

I liked the activities alot.

I loved the class and your enthusiasm in your class! Thank you for being the greatest professor for my first quarter for my first year¬†

I feel that overall the experience with AI was positive, but required some more concrete framework.

No additional feedback I thought the lectures were very interesting.

Once again, just making it slightly more realistic.

I had a great time with the activities we did in class and thought they were very productive.¬†

I enjoyed the AI activities especially when we got to discuss them together as a class. I am not the most creative person so I enjoyed hearing about where the students went with the historical simulations.¬†

No additional feedback. Thanks !

I really liked the activities in which I took part (mesopotamian and Cambridge).

Thank you for bringing your passion for teaching history to this class. I really appreciate the time and effort you put into your lectures and activities, and I had lots of fun this quarter. I hope to get more professors in the future who care about their kids and the class because it makes a huge difference in my learning.

Having different characters to choose from was very helpful and made the activity more interesting.

No additional feedback. Overall, very satisfied with the course.¬†

N/a

I really enjoyed the class and the incorporation of AI was something exciting new and enjoyable for me.¬†

This one of the first classes the allows AI to intertwine into their lectures and teachings and I think you did a pretty good job at that.

This class was really fun, I enjoyed the activities and feel like many students will enjoy them, keep up the great work.

not really

Loved the class a lot, honestly 10/10, even If I knew the feedback wouldn't be applied in the future I would still take it again.

I didn't really care about AI going into this class, but I do have a better understanding of some of its capabilities now, which I think will be beneficial as technology continues to advance.

other than adding constraints to the AI-assisted simulations, I believe there is nothing more to be added, in order to create a great component to historical lectures.

Sometimes there is no consequences. Even if you deliberately set up the situation to blame your character, the AI will create a situation or person that makes it look like the hero.¬†

N/A

Is a very good and helpful resource/tool for helping students write the essays.

I don't have any further feedback, but I just wanted to thank you for such a great quarter!

I thought the simulations were super fun and interesting and I highly recommend continuing to do them.¬†

I personally was not a big fan of the second activity, because I thought it was a little difficult to participate in the debate when my character didn't have any interest in politics. I enjoyed the activities that were done of ChatGPT itself.

I really enjoyed this class and I really appreciate all the effort put into making it fun and interactive!

I do not hav any additional feedback. I enjoyed the AI simulations.

Thank you for making learning so much more interesting and enjoyable and making me more curious about a invent history by using modern tools like LLM,Ãs and showing us that there is more than just one way to learn things.¬†

Thanks for a great class! Enjoy your break and paternal leave :)

I think they,Ãre great! I wish classes had more time so experiencing the simulations could last longer than 10ish moves.

I really enjoyed doing the simulations every time, and I liked how they were interactive with others in the class, and not just a solo project.¬†

n/a

Grateful for the new frontier you are paving. Education should be getting a lot more interesting!¬†

Thank you for this class overall, this was my first quarter here and my favorite class! :)

I loved the AI because it influenced my ideas for other projects and it made me realize how powerful it was¬†

I covered everything I wanted to say. My biggest suggestion is on question 8¬†

I thought using AI was a very interesting way to keep the class engaged. Based on reactions of fellow student I noticed, I would definitely continue using these activities for future classes.

The activities added more engagement to the class and I thoroughly enjoyed them.

I enjoyed using chat gpt in class. I feel like it deepened my understanding and learning of the subject by taking me into the everyday life of people a long time ago