

HISTORY 194
THE UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR IN HISTORY
Spring 2017, Wednesdays, 1:30-3:50

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class) and by appointment
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Course Objectives

This course is the second of the two-semester sequence required of History majors at Johns Hopkins. The first semester culminated in a research proposal. This semester builds on the proposal, developing it into an undergraduate thesis of 25 to 35 pages.

The semester will be divided into three parts. In February, you will undertake further research. In March, you will draft the bulk of your paper. In April, you will revise and sharpen what you have written in anticipation of submitting your final research paper on May 10.

Most of your work this semester will be conducted independently: research, writing, and individualized consultations with the instructor and TA. For this reason, it will be important to establish a regular schedule of research and writing so that you don't fall behind. It is strongly recommended that you set aside, every week, at least eight hours per week for your research paper. If you fall behind, the paper will be difficult to complete and the process far more painful than necessary. To avoid such a scenario, several interim assignments are due over the course of the semester whose purpose is to ensure that you are making progress and receiving useful feedback. Deadlines are noted below.

Not all your work will be done independently. We will continue to meet collectively to share drafts of our work and to offer comments on the work of other students. Whatever period, area of the world, or type of history you wish to investigate, all historians face similar problems of research, writing, and interpretation. Sharing and comparing your experiences will form an invaluable part of your research process and of the seminar.

On the weeks we do not meet, the instructor and TA are available for individual consultations. (We are also both available by appointment during the weeks we do meet.) You are encouraged to meet with the instructor and TA as frequently as you wish: no matter related to the course is too small. You will be required to meet with one of us at least twice during the semester.

All written work must conform to "Chicago style" (see Turabian, *A Manual for Writers* or *The Chicago Manual of Style*). All assignments must be submitted in both hard copy and by email attachment.

Required Readings

Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (8th edition, 2013)

The following non-required reference works are also useful:

Richard Marius, *A Short Guide to Writing about History*

John Trimble, *Writing with Style*

Assignments and Grades

Class Participation: 20%

5-Page Outline (due March 1): 10%

10-Page Submission (due March 15): 10%

Rough Draft (due April 12): 20%

Final Research Paper (due May 10): 40%

Note on Academic Ethics

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. Report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of student affairs and/or the chair of the Ethics Board beforehand. For more information, see <http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/undergrad-students/student-life-policies/#UAEB>.

Schedule

Week 1 (February 1): Organizational Meeting

Week 2 (February 8): Strategies for Research and Writing

Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, chaps. 2-5

Week 3 (February 15): No Class

Individual Meetings

Week 4 (February 22): No Class

Individual Meetings

Week 5 (March 1): No Class

Five-page outline due

Five-page outline due. You may not have completed research at this stage, which is fine. Your outline may identify gaps in your research and mark areas where your work is continuing to progress.

Week 6 (March 8): Workshop: Discussion of Outlines

Roughly eight minutes per outline. Each student will serve as a discussant for one outline. He or she will have four minutes to summarize and offer suggestions on the outline, which will be followed by four minutes of general discussion.

Week 7 (March 15): No Class

Ten-page submission due

The submission may include the introduction or may cover a section from the body of the paper.

Week 8 (March 22): Spring Break

Week 9 (March 29): No Class
Individual Meetings

Week 10 (April 5): No Class
Individual Meetings

Week 11 (April 12) No Class
Rough draft of entire paper due

Week 12 (April 19): Workshop: Discussion of Rough Drafts
Class will be divided into two groups. Each student will serve as a discussant for one text.

Week 13 (April 26): Workshop: Discussion of Rough Drafts
Class will be divided into two groups. Each student will serve as a discussant for one text.

Week 14 (May 3): No Class
Individual Meetings

Final papers due May 10.

Final papers should be 25-35 pages, double-spaced with normal font and margins. It should include footnotes but not a bibliography.