Overview:
The Senior Honors Seminar is a coordinating workshop for students who are writing a senior thesis. It provides background information on the process of researching and writing a thesis, a forum in which students can engage in shared editing and problem-solving, and an additional layer of support for students and their advisors. It meets roughly eight times per semester.

Objectives: improve reading and writing skills, write a thesis based on original research.

Texts:

Bookstore:


Reserves (available as supplementary resources):

E-Reserves:

- All readings marked with an asterisk are available on E-Reserves via the course site on Blackboard.

Ethics and Accommodations:

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In writing the senior thesis, 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. Please report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of student affairs and/or the chairman of the Ethics Board beforehand. See the guide on “Academic Ethics for Undergraduates” and the Ethics Board Web site (http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/undergrad-students/student-life-policies/#UAEB) for more information.

Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in the process of writing a senior thesis should obtain a letter from Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu.

First day sept 1
Thursday October 20 classes meet on Monday schedule
Fall break Friday October 21-october 23
Nov. 21-27 thanks giving
December 9 Friday last classes

Meetings (Wednesdays from 1:30–3:50pm):

Wednesday, September 6: Introduction to the Senior Thesis Process
- Read before class Jeffrey Brooks and Boris Dralyuk, "Parahistory: History at Play in Russia and Beyond,” the Slavic Review Vol. 75, No. 1 (SPRING 2016), pp. 77-98
- Hasek, The Good Soldier Svejk: and His Fortunes in the World War (Penguin Classics), Trans. Cecil Parrott, chapter 1
- read the forward and preface to Barbara Tuchman, Guns of August (available on Amazon when search the book)

New York Times Aug. 9, Sarah Vowell, The Danger of an Incurious President

Wednesday, September 13: Elements of a Successful Thesis

Discussion:
• Hour 1: Discussion of prize-winning thesis from 2015–2016 (Davis, “Instrument of Empire”).
• Hour 2: Panel of past thesis writers.

Readings:
• Optional: Browse other 2016–2017 Senior Theses available on E-Reserves.

Wednesday, September 20: Defining a Research Topic

Readings:
• Booth, Craft of Research, ch. 3 (pp. 35–48), ch. 4 (pp. 51–65), ch. 6 (pp. 84–100).

Assignments:
• Schedule a meeting with the History liaison librarian for the week of September 25–29.

Wednesday, September 27: NO MEETING

Assignments:
• Group A: submit topic/thesis paragraphs and data samples via email to me and TA or to our campus mailboxes (in Gilman 301) by Friday 9/29 at 4:00pm.

Wednesday, October 4: Workshop I, Thesis Paragraphs and Data Sources

Discussion:
• Presentations from Group A.

Readings:
• Handout: Erin Rowe, “How to Read a Primary Source.”

Wednesday, October 11: NO MEETING

Assignments:
• Group B: submit topic/thesis paragraphs and data samples via Blackboard or to my campus mailbox (in Gilman 301) by Friday 10/13 at 4:00pm.

Wednesday, October 18: Workshop II, Thesis Paragraphs and Data Sources

Discussion:
• Presentations from Group B.

Wednesday, October 25: NO MEETING
**Wednesday, November 1: Research Strategies; Avoiding Inadvertent Plagiarism**

*Readings:*
- Handout: “How to Write a Short Proposal”

**Wednesday, November 8: NO MEETING**

*Assignments:*
- Research proposals due via Blackboard by Friday 11/10 at 4:00pm.

**Wednesday, November 15: Proposals**

*Readings:*
- Classmates’ proposals (bundled and posted on Blackboard).

**Wednesday, November 20-26: THANKSGIVING VACATION**

**Wednesday, November 29: NO MEETING**

**Wednesday, December 6: Introductions and Conclusions**

*Readings:*
- Booth, ch. 16 (pp. 232–248).
- Handout: “Elements of an Introduction.”
- Handout: Sample introductions.

**Spring Deadlines: to check and confirm**

*March 5-9: Complete working drafts due to advisors*

*March 26–30: Provisional clearance for honors*

*April 9–13: Undergraduate Research Day*

*April 13: Kouguell Prize deadline*

*April 16–20: All remaining theses due to advisors*

*April 27: Final grades due from thesis advisers*