

HISTORY 294
THE UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR IN HISTORY
SPRING 2020

Section 1: Tuesday, 1:30-4:00pm
Mudd 26

Professor Tamer el-Leithy
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:30-6:00pm

Teaching Assistant: Faisal Abualhassan
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in Eisenhower B level, room B76

Section 2: Wednesday, 1:30-4:00pm
Krieger 302

Professor Elizabeth Thornberry
Office: 338E Gilman
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Office Hours: Tuesday 10am-12pm

Teaching Assistant: Oriol Regue Sendros
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Office hours: Wednesday 10am-12pm

Course Description and Objectives

This year-long course is part seminar, part workshop. It provides an opportunity to design and execute an in-depth investigation of a historical subject that interests you. Faculty advisors, librarians, and teaching assistants will guide you through the process of creating an original essay of article length. We'll proceed step by step, defining a topic, finding and interpreting sources, and structuring an argument and a narrative. The seminar will operate as a working group and a pool of resources. Although each of you will be working on an individual project, an essential component of the course is sharing your work, engaging with the ideas and research of other students, and building class discussions. Whatever time period, part of the world, or type of history you wish to investigate, all historians face similar problems of research, writing and interpretation. Discussing them and sharing and comparing your experiences will form an invaluable part of your research process and of the seminar.

The in-depth proposal you completed in the first semester will provide the foundation for completing your research project during the second semester. The second semester builds on this proposal and takes it further, culminating in a ca. 8,000 word research essay (the "Sophomore Thesis"). The semester may be divided into three parts: in February, you will undertake further research; in March, you will draft the bulk of your research paper, and in April, you will revise and hone what you have written, in anticipation of submitting your final research essay (due April 29/30th). The cumulative work of the students will then be published in an online journal available through the JHU library.

This semester class will meet sporadically, allowing students to spend as much time as possible conducting research and producing drafts for peer-review prior to the submission of the final paper. All assignments (see below) are part of this research and writing process. Class time will consist primarily in discussing research and writing strategies. There will be in-class progress reports, a meeting on writing your introduction, a peer-review session of rough drafts, and the final paper presentation.

Both Professor el-Leithy and Professor Thornberry are available for regular consultation about your topic, as are your teaching assistants, Faisal Abualhassan and Oriol Regue Sendros, and the academic liaison librarian for History, Margaret Burri. You are required to make an appointment to meet with your professor and/or TA at least three times: when you begin writing (during week 4), before submitting your first draft for peer edits (in week 9), and after receiving your peer edits (in week 12). All of these meetings should be scheduled in advance. You are also strongly encouraged to meet with us more often throughout the semester. You may also wish to schedule an appointment at the Writing Center (<http://krieger.jhu.edu/writingcenter/>) at some point before the end of the semester.

Assignments

1. Progress report (presented in class week 2)
2. Outline (due week 3)
3. Introduction (due week 5)
4. Rough Draft (due week 10)
5. Peer-editing of rough drafts (email edits before class week 11)
6. Final paper (due in class week 14)

Grades and assessment

Written work must be clearly and cogently organized, well written, proofread, and on time (late work is not acceptable). All assignments should be submitted via Blackboard, by 5 pm on the due date. All written work to be submitted in PDF or Word format; 1" margins; 12pt font double-spaced; all pages numbered, and the first word in the file name should be your last name. Please note that JHU uses software to detect plagiarism.

- Class participation (including attendance): 25%
- Outline: 15%
- Introduction: 10%
- Peer-editing assignment: 15%
- Final research essay: 35%

Your grade for class participation includes attendance in class, evidence of having fully prepared for the day's class, and willingness to contribute your ideas to the class discussion (i.e. the grade is for class participation, not simply attendance). Life happens, so everyone is credited with 1 free absence from class during the semester—no excuses necessary. After that, you can expect your class participation grade to drop by 10 points for each absence. Exceptions to this policy will be made only in the case of serious and documented extenuating circumstances (such as illness or religious observances). If you find speaking up during discussions difficult, please come to your professor or TA's office hours as soon as possible so that we can discuss strategies to help you work on this important skill.

Blackboard page

This syllabus will be posted on Blackboard and updated as needed. Please also check Blackboard regularly for announcements, assignment prompts and links to electronic texts and images.

Disability Services: Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in this class must obtain an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu.

Academic Integrity: The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, 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 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. Plagiarism detection software may be used in this course.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week 1. January 28th/29th – Introduction to Spring semester

- Discussion of outline assignment (due week 3)
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Week 2. February 4th/5th – Progress Reports

- Every student must present a progress report
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Week 3. February 11th/12th – Project Introductions

- Paper Outlines due
 - Workshop: what does an introduction do?
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Week 4. February 18th/19th – NO MEETING

- Individual Meetings with Professor/TA required this week (to be scheduled in advance). Bring a hard copy of your paper in its current form.
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Week 5. February 25th/26th: Writing Workshop: Writing the Body Sections of the Research Paper

- Introductions due
 - Touching base, preparation for the next two weeks
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Week 6. March 3rd/4th - NO MEETING

Week 7. March 10th/11th – Writing Workshop: Fitting the Parts Together

Week 8. March 17th/18th – NO MEETING (Spring Break)

Week 9. March 24th/25th – NO CLASS MEETING

- Individual Meetings with Professor/TA required this week (to be scheduled in advance). Bring a hard copy of your paper in its current form.
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Week 10. March 31st/April 1st – Peer Editing Workshop

- Submit full rough draft of paper via Blackboard, and email copies to your assigned peer editors
 - Discussion of expectations for peer editing
 - Short meeting with peer editing groups
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Week 11. April 7th/8th – Discussion of Peer Edits of Rough Drafts

- Submit your peer edits via Blackboard, and email copies to your editing group (due 7 pm on the day before class)
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Week 12. April 15th/16th – NO CLASS MEETING

- Individual Meetings with Professor/TA required this week (to be scheduled in advance). Bring a hard copy of your paper in its current form.

Week 13. April 22nd/23rd – Meeting for Trouble Shooting

Week 14. April 29th/30th – Final Paper Due in class

- Final discussion
- Celebration!