

History 4990

Senior Seminar

Summer 2009

Instructor: Eric G. Swedin, Ph.D
<http://www.swedin.org/>
eswedin@weber.edu
Office on Davis campus: DV137L
Telephone: 801-395-3553 (w); 801-479-3735 (h)

Texts: William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style* (Longman; 4th edition, 1999). ISBN-13: 978-0205309023

Kate L. Turabian, et al, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (University Of Chicago Press; Seventh Edition, 2007). ISBN-13: 978-0226823379

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* (Bedford/St. Martin's; 5th edition, 2006). ISBN-13: 978-0312446734

Class Description: A seminar for History majors requiring the completion of an extensive thesis project. Prerequisite: HIST SI3000.

Grading Policies: Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Prospectus	10%
Class participation	10%
Senior thesis	80%

Grades: A: 90 - 100% B: 80 - 89% C: 70 - 79% D: 60 - 69% E: 0 - 59%
(Grades at the high or low ends of these ranges will earn plus and minus grades.)

Cheating Policy: Cheating and deceit are not accepted Weber State University. Cheating on an exam or assignment, or turning in someone else's work as your own, will result in an E for the class. You may work together on your assignments and papers, but you must turn in your own work. If you quote from a book, article, or web site, you must properly quote and cite your work. Avoid even the appearance of cheating or plagiarism.

Students with Disabilities: Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

Learning Goals:

Students should be able to:

- Apply the historical method in the critical evaluation and interpretation of primary source material.
- Have some proficiency in the categories, concepts, and forms of argumentation that professional historians used to derive meaning from complex historical events;
- Evaluate and critique the work of your fellow historians in a respectful and constructive manner;
- Be fluent with the conventions of the writing process including drafting, critique, revision, proofreading, and copy editing.

Class Process:

Attendance is mandatory in this class.

Papers will always be turned in a physical form, not digitally.

Each time that you hand in your work, it must be in a folder that includes all previous work. For instance, when you hand in your Second Draft paper, your folder will also include your Paper Prospectus and your Rough Draft paper (with the comments and preliminary grades of your instructor on them).

Paper Prospectus:

This is a one page statement in which you state the question you are asking of the past. Why are you asking this research question or pursuing this research hypothesis? What has prepared you to answer this question? Give an overview of your sources and methods for answering the question. Suggest possible research strategies, such as the types of sources you will be using. This prospectus should not be considered binding in either your topic or your historical approach.

Oral Presentations on Research Sources:

You must meet with a research librarian: such as Dr. Kathy Payne (KLPayne@weber.edu, 801-626-6511) or Dr. Wade Kotter (wkotter@weber.edu, 801-626-7458). You will give a five minute oral presentation describing their research suggestions. This is also a resource that you need to review: <<http://library.weber.edu/cm/hist/history4990.cfm>>

Rough Draft of Senior Thesis:

Your rough draft should have at least half of your total expected words in it. Parts of the paper that have not been written should exist in an outline form inside your paper. A preliminary bibliography should be included. My feedback to you will include a preliminary grade in order that you can gauge your progress towards the final grade for the paper.

Second Draft of Senior Thesis:

The second draft of your paper should have reached close to its final length, conclusions should be included, and no outlines within the paper will remain. A bibliography should be included. My feedback to you will include a preliminary grade in order that you can gauge your progress towards the final grade for the paper.

Senior Thesis Paper:

Your Senior Thesis will meet the following criteria:

- Needs to be 25-30 pages long, typed, double-spaced, in a twelve-point font, with one inch margins.
- Is a unique contribution to your chosen area of historical research. This requirement can be fulfilled by
 - using under-utilized or unutilized primary source materials;
 - identifying and addressing an unacknowledged problem of historical sourcing or interpretation;
 - applying conceptual categories in a way that offers new insight into established areas of historical scholarship;
 - making innovative use of interpretive theory in the analysis of your sources.
- In short, your paper must offer something in its interpretations or in its presentation of the evidence that cannot be found elsewhere.
- You need to have an *argument* that you are trying to *prove*. This is more than just retelling events that occurred; you must analyze those events and support a specific thesis.
- All of your citations need to be either footnotes or endnotes in Rampolla/Turabian form. (Chicago Manual of Style). The Online Chicago Manual of Style can be found at http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
- You need to have at least 12 primary sources, and at least 12 secondary sources.
 - At least 3 of the primary sources must not be from a digital source.
 - At least 6 of the secondary documents must be monographs not articles.
- You will have to have a bibliography also in Rampolla/Turabian form. The bibliography will be divided between primary and secondary sources.
- You will also need a cover sheet for the final draft. You should not bind the paper. Just staple it in the corner
- The grading rubric for your paper is located here: http://faculty.weber.edu/eswedin/Site/standards_for_senior_thesis.htm

Schedule:

Date	Activities
May 13	Introduction to class. Lecture/discussion on what is good writing?
May 20	Lecture/discussion on getting to the sources. You need to read these two articles for this class session: < http://courseweb.stthomas.edu/gwschlabach/10commnd.htm > < http://personal.stthomas.edu/gwschlabach/courses/sense.htm > Paper Prospectus to be handed in.
May 27	Each student will make a five minute oral presentation on research sources for their project.
June 3	No class will be held.
June 10	No class will be held.
June 17	Lecture/discussion on historiography. Rough Draft of Senior Thesis to be handed in.
June 24	Individual appointments (Last names beginning with A-L)
July 1	Individual appointments (Last names beginning with M-Z)
July 8	Each student will make a five minute oral presentation of their paper's conclusions. Copies of papers distributed to peer group, so everyone should bring five copies of their senior thesis papers.
July 15	Peer group discussions.
July 22	Lecture/discussion on careers for historians. Second Draft of Senior Thesis to be handed in.
July 29	Individual appointments (Last names beginning with M-Z)
August 4	Individual appointments (Last names beginning with A-L)
August 11	NO FINAL EXAM; Senior Thesis Due