

History 600: History Research Seminar, Fall 2014

Tues/Thursday 3-4:15 Warner 203

Professors: Joyce Mao, Kathryn Morse, Max Ward

Smaller Groups: Mao: WNS 203 / Morse: Wright Theatre Seminar / Ward: MNR 407

Prof. Joyce Mao

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Office Hours:

W: 3-4:30

TR: 1-2:30

Prof. Kathryn Morse

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1:30-4, except 9/12

10/10 and 11/7

Prof. Max Ward

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Office Hours:

T: 11:00-12:30

TR: 1:00-2:30

Course Design

The main goal of this seminar is to prepare you to pursue independent historical research and writing at a greater degree of depth than you are likely to have done before. Each student will define a topic and pursue research and writing of a formal paper of between 25-30 pages. The paper will combine your own findings from research in primary and secondary sources with a discussion of the historiography of a particular topic -- that is, what previous historians have written about it.

One way to think of this course is as an experience in historical research and writing similar to learning to ride a bicycle with training wheels. Each of the professors leading this course, despite our varied research interests and specializations, has similarly experienced the “thrills” and “spills” of mastering the historian’s craft, and now we will be helping you along that journey. With our guidance and input, you will identify three potential research projects; we will then play a role in the final selection of your topic and in helping you develop viable themes, questions, and sources to pursue. Given our particular areas of scholarly expertise, the research topics we will suggest and the sources we know well will tend to cluster around those fields, some of which may be new and unfamiliar terrain. Even if you research and write in an area of history you may not have studied before, you can engage the process of historical research and writing in rich and engaging ways. This is thus an opportunity to take risks, be adventurous, and expand your intellectual skills and horizons in unanticipated directions. The success of this semester’s project will depend mainly on your growing ability to read, think, research, and write independently of direction from professors. This course will then prepare you for the next step – writing a senior thesis in history next year (or, if you are already a senior, next term) without training wheels, as a largely independent research and writing experience.

Our meeting schedule varies week to week. On some days we will meet together as a large group; on others we will meet in three sub-groups in three separate rooms (check calendar). On yet other days each of you will meet with your assigned advisor for a one-on-one meeting as set up individually. Please take care to check the schedule each week, as we will meet in different places at different times.

Course Materials

One book, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Eighth Edition*, by Kate Turabian, has been ordered for this course, and you get it for free! Other readings will be placed in the course share folder (HIST 600A and 600B), or emailed to you as .pdfs.

Evaluation/Grading

The professors will determine your overall grade in the course based upon these factors: evidence of your preparation for and willingness to contribute to class discussions; your preparation for individual meetings with your instructor; your level of investment in reviewing your peers' writing; your timely submission of materials (including topics, prospectuses and drafts); and most importantly, the final version of your research paper. Your attendance at scheduled class meetings is mandatory. Unexcused absences in class or individually scheduled conferences will result in a grade penalty. No extensions on written work will be granted, except in the extraordinary case of significant illness or personal circumstances beyond your control. In such cases, contact your instructor ASAP.

A Word on Sources

You are expected to use primary sources where possible, and to take some care to insure the reliability of secondary sources. Very general sources, such as encyclopedias, may be useful in the early stages of research by pointing you towards more specialized sources, but they are not suitable for citation. Similar restrictions apply to "open source" resources, such as Wikipedia. The History Department has adopted a policy that Wikipedia is not an acceptable citation, even though it may lead you to a citable source.

Here are some useful website for student research methods in history (additional handouts will specify websites which feature access to primary and secondary sources).

University of Wisconsin Learning Historical Research:

<http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/index.htm>

Bowdoin College History Guide:

<http://academic.bowdoin.edu/WritingGuides/>

The Honor Code

The Honor Code is in effect for all work submitted in this class. We will discuss researching and writing with academic integrity throughout the semester, particularly with regard to plagiarism.

Email Policy

We will do our best to respond to student email within 24 hours, Monday-Friday. However, we generally don't check and respond to email between Friday at 5 pm and Monday at 9 am (except when we have assignments due on a Sunday, as we do once during the semester in this course). We do expect that you check your college email address on a regular basis Monday through Friday.

Intercollegiate Athletics

If you are a member of a team whose schedule will require you to miss class, it is your responsibility to inform us of your schedule, what work you will miss, and how and when you intend to make up that

work. If at all possible, we would like to know at the beginning of the semester exactly when you will be gone, so as to head off any complications well in advance.

Schedule (refer also to calendar below):

Week 1:

Tues Sept 9: Group meeting in Warner 203, 3-3:15; Primary source workshop in Special Collections, Davis Family library, 3:15-4:15.

Thurs Sept 11: Large group meeting, Warner 203. Faculty presentations on topics and sources.

Week 2:

Tues Sept 16: Group meeting in Warner 203. Read for class: Nancy Bernkopf Tucker, "Taiwan Expendable? Nixon and Kissinger Go to China," Journal of American History 92: 1 (June 2005): 109-135.

Thurs Sept 18: Group meeting in Warner 203 for work on three proposed topics. Read for class: in Turabian, pp. 3-23. Also spend 15 minutes looking at two helpful web sites on historical research:

University of Wisconsin Learning Historical Research:

<http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/index.htm>

Bowdoin College History Guide, particularly the sections on "Historical Arguments" and "The Research Process." Look at: "How to Ask Good Questions" and "What Makes a Question Good."

<http://academic.bowdoin.edu/WritingGuides/>

Friday Sept 19. BY NOON, Please email your three proposed topics, to ALL THREE PROFESSORS as .docx or .pdf files, following the format we will outline in class on the 16th and 18th of September.

Week 3:

Monday Sept 22: Professors will email your assigned topic (of your proposed three), and remind you of your classroom assignment for your small group.

Tues. Sept 23: Prof. Ward's group (Japanese history) will meet in LIB 105 for a library research workshop. Prof. Mao's group meets in Warner 203 (that group's room for small group work). Prof. Morse's group will meet in Wright Theater Seminar Room (first floor of Wright theater; take a left once you enter the lobby and head to the North end of the building).

Thurs. Sept 25: Prof. Ward's group will meet in Munroe 407. Prof Mao's and Prof Morse's group will meet in LIB 105 for a library research workshop.

Sunday Sept 28: Prospectus due by email to your individual professor by noon (as pdf or docx). For directions, please consult our class handout on writing a prospectus.

Week 4:

Tuesday Sept 30: Meet in three small groups to discuss prospectus comments (Ward in Munroe 407; Mao in Warner 203; Morse in Wright Theater Seminar Room).

Thurs. Oct 2: Student-Professor one-on-one meetings as scheduled: Time for focused research.
Week 5:

Tuesday Oct 7: All three groups meet together, Warner 203, for discussion of writing process.

Thursday Oct 9: Student-Professor one-on-one meetings as scheduled: Time for writing.

Friday Oct 10: **Five pages of writing emailed to individual professors and to peer writing group partners by 5 pm.**

Week 6:

Monday-Tuesday Oct 13-14: Fall Break!

Thursday Oct 16: Meeting in small groups (3 classrooms) for peer critique workshop. Please print out your fellow students' papers and bring hand-written or typed comments in hard copy to share with them.

Week 7:

Tuesday Oct 21: Student-Professor One-on-One meetings as scheduled.

Thursday Oct 23: Student-Professor One-on-One meetings as scheduled.

Week 8:

Tuesday Oct 28: All three groups together in Warner 203 for discussion of writing structure and argument. Assigned reading: Former student HIST 600 paper (in share folder as .pdf).

Thursday Oct 30: Student-Professor One-on-One meetings as scheduled.

Friday Oct 31: **Seven pages of new writing emailed to individual professors and to peer writing group partners by 5 pm.**

Week 9:

Tuesday Nov 4: Meet in three groups in three rooms (usual places) for peer critique workshop. Please print out your fellow students' papers and bring hand-written or typed comments in hard copy to share with them.

Thursday Nov 6: Student-Professor One-on-One meetings as scheduled.

Week 10:

Tuesday Nov 11: All three groups together in Warner 203 for discussion of writing Introductions and Conclusions.

Thursday Nov 13: Student-Professor One-on-One meetings as scheduled.

Week 11:

Tuesday: Nov 18: Student-Professor One-on-One meetings as scheduled.

Thursday Nov 20: No class meetings. Full rough draft with footnotes and bibliography as polished as possible due to individual professors and peer writing partners by 5 p.m.

Week 12:

Tuesday Nov 25: Student-Professor One-on-One meetings as scheduled.

Thursday Nov 27: THANKSGIVING!

Week 13:

Tuesday Dec 2: Meet in three groups with individual professors in usual rooms for comments on drafts and peer writing responses. Please print out your fellow students' papers and bring hand-written or typed comments in hard copy to share with them.

Thursday Dec 4: All three groups together in Warner 203 for group discussion of final drafts and looking ahead to the Senior Thesis (!).

Friday Dec 12, 5 pm: Final drafts due to individual professors by email as .pdf or .docx.

Course Calendar

September 2014

	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	8	9 3-4:15, First class (WNS 203) and Special collections workshop	10	11 3-4:15, Large group, WNS 203; Topics	12	13
14	15	16 3-4:15, WNS 203, Read: Tucker article	17	18 3-4:15 WNS 203: Read: Craft of Research handout; web pages on syllabus	19 email three topics by 12 pm to all three profs	20
21	22 Profs assign topics and advisors	23 Ward group to Lib Workshop, LIB 105; Mao Group WNS 203 Morse group WTH Sem Rm	24	25 Mao & Morse Groups to LIB 105; Ward Group MNR 407	26	27
28 Prospectus due by email to indiv prof, Noon.	29	30 Ward group MNR 407 Mao group WNS 203 Morse group Wright Theater Sem Room				

October 2014

			1	2 Student-prof one-on-one Meetings	3	4
5	6	7 All three groups together, Warner 203.	8	9 Student-prof one-on-one Meetings	10 5 pages emailed to prof and peer group, 5 pm.	11
12	13 Break	14 Break	15	16 Peer review of 5 pages. Bring hard copies and comments; 3 groups in 3 rooms.	17	18
19	20	21 Student-prof one-on-one meetings	22	23 Student-prof one-on-one meetings.	24	25
26	27	28 All three groups, Warner 203. Read former student HIST 600 paper (in share folder).	29	30 Student-prof one-on-one meetings.	31 7 new pages emailed to prof and peer group, 5 pm.	

November 2014

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2	3	4 Peer review of 7 pages. Bring hard copies and comments; 3 groups in 3 rooms.	5	6 Student-prof one-on-one meetings.	7	8
9	10	11 All three groups, Warner 203. Discussion of intros and conclusions	12	13 Student-prof one-on-one meetings.	14	15

16	17	18 Student-prof one-on-one meetings.	19	20 Full rough draft due to prof and peer writing group, 5 pm.	21	22
23	24	25 Student-prof one-on-one meetings.	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30						

December 2014

	1	2 Peer review of full drafts. Bring hard copies and comments; 3 groups in 3 rooms.	3	4 All three groups, Warner 203. Discussion of final drafts and senior theses.	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Final Draft Due, by email, to profs, 5 pm.	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27