

History 680/690: Senior Thesis Seminar / Senior Thesis Honors Seminar

Fall 2005: Tuesdays, 3.30-5.30pm, 5255 Humanities

Professor: Paul Stephenson (History)

Syllabus (August, 2005)

Week 1 (Sept. 6th): Introduction, with presentation by Writing Center

Week 2 (Sept. 13th): Web Resources

To be held in LSS Multi-media classroom (Van Hise 274). Meet in 5255 Humanities, to walk up hill together.

In preparation please read: I. Balfour, "Tertullian on and off the Internet," *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 8/iv (2000): 579-585, which can be downloaded for free from Project Muse. Search the UW library catalogue for the Journal, and follow the link.

Week 3 (Sept 20th): Asking Historical Questions

In preparation read: D. Kagan, "In Defense of History," *2005 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities* <http://www.neh.fed.us/whoware/kagan/lecture.html>

P. Mishra, "A Cautionary Tale for Americans," *New York Review of Books* LII/9, May 26, 2005, 8-11. (Circulated in class.)

Week 4 (Sept. 27th): The Use of Cognate Disciplines, 1: Archeology (William Aylward)

In preparation read: TBA by Prof. Aylward

Week 5 (Oct. 4th): The Use of Cognate Disciplines, 2: Art History and Architecture (Thomas Dale)

In preparation read: TBA by Prof. Dale

Week 6 (Oct. 11th): The Use of Cognate Disciplines, 4: Anthropology

In preparation read: R. Chartier, "Texts, symbols and Frenchness," *Journal of Modern History* 57/iv (1985): 682-95. Which can be downloaded from JSTOR via the Library catalogue.

R. Darnton, "The symbolic element in history," *Journal of Modern History* 58/i (1986): 218-34. Which can be downloaded from JSTOR via the Library catalogue.

Week 7 (Oct. 18th): The Use of Cognate Disciplines, 4: Political Science and International Relations (Jeremi Suri)

In preparation read: S. D. Sagan & J. Suri, "The madman nuclear alert: secrecy, signaling, and safety in October 1969," *International Security* 27/iii (2003): 150-183

Week 8 (Oct. 18th): The Basics: Writing Introductions and Conclusions; Reading Languages; Footnotes and Bibliographies

Weeks 9-15: Student presentations and consultations

Be sure to bring a relevant article or book to each session, as you will spend the second part of the class reading, as the instructor consults with students individually.

The first hour or more of each class will be devoted to four or five very brief student presentations, each to be followed by questions and discussion.

Each presentation will last only five minutes, and will present the following information:

- a) Topic and title.
- b) Historical questions to be answered.
- c) Methodology, use of cognate disciplines if appropriate.
- d) Work completed to date.
- e) Original contribution of paper: how will it fit into a broader body of scholarship.