
HONORS THESIS COLLOQUIUM/SENIOR THESIS COLLOQUIUM

History 680/690

Van Hise 486
Wednesdays; 11am - noon; noon - 1 pm

Fall Semester 2011

Professor: Cindy I-Fen Cheng
Office: 5106 Humanities
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30 - 2:30 pm and by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to help you write a successful senior thesis. Through a series of assignments, it aims to equip you with the basic skills and logistics of writing a solid research paper. Because writing and research can often be an isolating and frustrating experience, this course seeks to provide a space for discussion, feedback, and accountability.

To ensure that our time together is helpful and productive, please come to each session prepared to talk and to engage with each other's ideas. Please also be ready to provide constructive feedback on each other's work and to be receptive to the comments of your peers. It is important that you complete each assignment as that will help you make steady progress in the research and writing of your senior thesis.

MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ADVISORS

It is crucial that you remain in regular contact with your thesis advisor throughout the semester. Set up regular appointment times with your advisor as well as a timeline for completion of your senior thesis. Please respect foremost the deadlines that your thesis advisor and you have come up with for drafts, draft revisions, and for the final write-up. You are more than welcome to share with your advisor the time frame that this course has developed.

SUPPORT OUTSIDE OF CLASS MEETINGS

While your advisor is best qualified to help you with questions related to your project, its sources, possible approaches, and the like, I am here to help you as well. If at any point and for whatever reason you feel like you need more guidance and some one-on-one time outside of our class meetings, please do not hesitate to come see me during office hours or set up a time to meet with me.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There is a separate set of course requirements for First Semester Writers and for Second Semester Writers. Please make sure you familiarize yourself with the correct set of course requirements.

First Semester Writers (FSW)

1. Attendance and Participation	500 points
2. Preliminary Project Prospectus	50 points
3. Bibliography - Final	100 points
4. Project Background Write-up	100 points
5. Prospectus Draft 1	100 points
6. Prospectus Final	150 points

TOTAL: 1000 points

Second Semester Writers (SSW)

1. Attendance and Participation	500 points
2. Preliminary Project Prospectus	50 points
3. Bibliography	50 points
4. Senior Thesis Outline	100 points
5. Draft 1	100 points
6. Full Draft of Senior Thesis	200 points

TOTAL: 1000 points

REQUIRED TEXT

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th Edition (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

NOTE: This syllabus has been developed and modified over the last several years by faculty of the UW-Madison History Department, including: Michael Chamberlain, Colleen Dunlavy, Brett Sheehan, Sarah Thal and Louise Young.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

W 9.7 Introduction

Assignment - Preliminary Project Prospectus (Both FSW and SSW):

- In one or two paragraphs, please describe the best you can what your project is about. What do you want to argue in this senior thesis? What do you find most interesting about the topic that you have selected?
- Please have this first assignment ready to be handed in during our next class meeting, 9.14.
- Please be ready to present this write-up during our next class meeting.

Week 2

W 9.14 Presentation of your Preliminary Project Prospectus

Assignment (Both FSW and SSW):

- For next week's class meeting, please think of 3 internet databases that you have found most helpful for your research needs or that you think would be most helpful for your research needs.
- Please be prepared to present on 1 or 2 of these databases.
- This will take two class sessions.

- Bring *A Manual for Writers* to Class

Week 3

W 9.21 Compiling your Bibliography; Presentation of Internet Research Aids

Assignment SSW:

- Refine your Bibliography.
- Please have that ready to be turned in during our next class meeting, 9.28.

Assignment FSW:

- Start Compiling your Bibliography.
- For the next class meeting, turn in a preliminary draft - have at least 5 books and 3 journal articles.
- Please keep in mind that the "final" write-up of your Bibliography will be due on 10.12.

Week 4

W 9.28 Presentation of Bibliography

Week 5 SSW ONLY

W 10.5 How do I begin writing my paper?

Assignment SSW - Senior Thesis Outline:

- Write-up an outline for your senior thesis
- Please e-mail a copy to your partner and to me by **NOON, Tuesday, October 18th**.

Week 6 FSW ONLY

W 10.12 What is a prospectus?

FSW: Bibliography DUE

Assignment FSW - Project Background Write-up:

- Please begin reading through some of the key books and articles that you have listed on your bibliography.
- Pick 4 key works and write-up a summary of those texts, focusing specifically on the areas that pertain to your project.
- In the final paragraph(s) of the write-up - talk about how your thesis will contribute to the existing body of literature.
- Please have this write-up ready to be turned in on 10.26.

Week 7 SSW ONLY

W 10.19 Check-in and Discuss Outline

Assignment SSW:

- Start Writing ☺

Week 8 **FSW ONLY**

W 10.26 Check-in and Discuss prospectus write-up

FSW: DUE Project Background Write-up

Assignment FSW:

- Start Writing ☺

Week 9

W 11.2 no meeting

Week 10

W 11.9 no meeting

****FSW and SSW****

DRAFT ONE DUE - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011 AT NOON

- Please e-mail a copy to me and to your reading partner
- FSW: Full complete draft of thesis prospectus
- SSW: Submit whatever you have written in NARRATIVE form [minimum 5 pages]

Week 11

W 11.16 Peer discussion of Draft One

Week 12

W 11.23 no meeting

Week 13

W 11.30 no meeting

****FSW and SSW****

FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE

- Please e-mail a copy of your paper to me and to your reading partner by 1pm

Week 14

W 12.7 Meet and Discuss

Week 15

W 12.14 Second Semester Senior Thesis Presentations

****SSW****

DECEMBER 23, 2011

LAST DAY OF FINAL - LAST DAY TO TURN FINAL PAPER TO THESIS ADVISOR