

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 1984-85

902-003 Research Studies in U.S. History: Prof. Gerda Lerner
Historical Methodology and Thursday, 1:20-3:20
Women's History Rm 7117, Helen C. White

This seminar will systematically prepare graduate students in research methods, critical evaluation of evidence, analysis and synthesis, documentation, and all the other skills necessary to do independent research. Students will be given weekly short assignments by which to practice these skills.

Through short readings, lectures and class discussion students will familiarize themselves with major interpretations of history and appraise the various answers given to the question: what is history? We will survey the major fields and methodologies of historical studies, with emphasis on comparative history and the history of women.

Assignments are due the week indicated. Written assignments are to be typed with wide margins in two copies, double-spaced. Both copies are to be handed in when due, so that one copy can be returned to the student with corrections and the other can become part of the student's record. Conciseness and precision of thought are what is wanted. Students having difficulty with grammar and style will be expected to work on these shortcomings and improve them. The aim of the seminar is to provide a sound foundation for the student's independent historical studies.

Grade will be based on class participation, fulfillment of all assignments and demonstrable progress.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Methodology</u>	<u>Historiography</u>
I	Overview of needed skills. How to use bibliographic reference books Special research problems.	What is History?
II	Card system. Note-taking. How to find the ten most important books on any subject. READ: Xerox Reader Unit 1 (Ranke)	Beginnings of history. Hegel, Comte.
III	How to analyze a source; find thesis and arguments. How to take reading notes. Primary and secondary sources. READ: Xerox Reader Unit 2 (Marx and Engels)	History as Science. Marxist History.
IV	Documentary analysis. Critical evaluation of sources. Footnotes and how to use them. READ: Xerox Reader Unit 3 (History as an Academic Discipline)	

<u>Week</u>	<u>Methodlogy</u>	<u>Historiograhy</u>
V	Documentary analysis continued. How to do a synthesis.	The new Social History. Beard, Robinson, and Becker.
	READ: Xerox Reader Unit 4 (Robinson and Beard, Becker).	
VI	Critique of sources. Bias in interpretation. Historiography.	Marc Bloch, Richard Hofstadter, William Dilthey.
	READ: Xerox Reader Unit 5 (Bloch, Hofstadter, Dilthey).	
VII	Synthesis.	John Higham, C. Vann Woodward.
	READ: Xerox Unit 6 (Higham and Woodward); Lerner, "Autobiographical Notes," <u>Majority Finds Its Past</u> .	
VIII	Significant and insignificant questions. What is important? How to review a book.	
	READ: A book of your choice from your list of best ten for review.	
IX	A conceptual framework for Women's History.	
	READ: Xerox Reader Unit 7 (Kelly and Davis).	
X	A conceptual framework for Women's History continued.	
	READ: Xerox Reader Unit 8 (Scott and Mary Beard); Lerner, <u>Majority</u> , chs. 10, 11, 12	
XI	Review of graduate reading. The historiographic essay.	
	READ: Xerox Reader Unit 9; Lerner, "The Necessity of History and the Professional Historian."	
XII	The variations of history. The historical journals.	
XIII	History as a profession.	
XIV	Discussion of student work.	Comparative History.
	READ: Xerox Reader Unit 10 (C.V. Woodward, two essays)	
XV	Discussion of various methodologies in history and of their merits. Review and evaluation.	