

## **HISTORY 600 / UW-MADISON / FALL 2003**

### **Advanced Seminar in History CORPORATIONS IN AMERICAN HISTORY**

This seminar meets on Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in 5255 Humanities.

#### **A Capstone Seminar**

This seminar offers the History major a "capstone" experience with hands-on research -- that is, an experience designed to put the finishing touches on your major. Over the course of the semester you will produce a 25- to 30-page paper that is based on primary sources and makes an original contribution to historical knowledge.

Because of its nature, plan to make this seminar the focal point of your semester and to devote lots of time to it. If the research topic that you develop is intellectually gripping and challenging, it will be a wonderful experience.

#### **Corporations in American History**

Corporations of all kinds -- charitable (benevolent), educational, and for-profit (business) -- have been an increasingly prominent feature of American history since the revolution. Yet many aspects of their history remain unexplored. This seminar offers you an opportunity to contribute to historical knowledge about corporations.

We will do a small amount of common reading on the history of corporations, but you will do most of your reading on the subject as you follow your nose in developing your research topic.

Although I encourage you to consider corporate governance as an area of research, you may focus your research on any period in American history and on any aspect of the history of corporations -- social, political, economic. Fair warning: developing a viable and interesting research topic is often the most difficult, time-consuming part of the research process!

#### **The Rhythm of the Semester**

During the first few weeks of the semester, we will develop a common foundation of knowledge of several kinds -- about the research process, about the history of corporations, about research materials available on campus and on the web.

As you begin to develop your paper topics, the seminar will function like a workshop in which each of you will present your research and learn to critique each other's work at each step in the process.

#### **Grades**

These will be based on your written work as well as your participation in the seminar meetings.

Participation accounts for 25% of your seminar grade -- to do well on this portion, attend seminar faithfully, come well prepared, and display active engagement with your own and others' research projects.

The remaining 75% of your grade will be divided as follows:

Outline and bibliography - 15%

Prospectus - 20%

Final paper - 40%

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