

HISTORY 701:
Introduction to the Professional Practice of History
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 2013
Wednesdays, 12:05-12:55
5243 Humanities (Curti Lounge)

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Introduction

History 701 is a one-credit, one-hour, required weekly seminar for students in the first semester of the Ph.D. program in History. It is convened by the professor currently serving as Director of Graduate Studies. The course has three goals:

- 1) to encourage you to think in broad, expansive terms about the discipline and profession of history and about your work;
- 2) to introduce you to faculty outside your area of study and inspire you to engage with a wide array of historians; and
- 3) to promote intellectual and personal community among graduate students across fields of specialization.

Historians practice their craft in many venues, not limited to the scholarly journal or university classroom. Over the course of the semester, the seminar will introduce you to a wide range of historians, each of whom will lead a discussion about some aspect of their professional life as (for example) a scholar, public historian, teacher, writer, editor, or film-maker. These guests will represent some but not all of the geographic, chronological, and thematic areas of expertise within the department. We will also spend some of our time discussing how to make the most of your time in the department—how to move through the program efficiently, how to present your interests and research effectively, and how to balance the often overwhelming demands of reading, thinking, writing, working, and living the rest of your life.

Given the size of the class and the limited time at our disposal, our discussions will be suggestive and illustrative rather than comprehensive. As with every course you will take while in Madison, how much you get out of the seminar will depend on how much you put into it.

Requirements and class mechanics

The requirements for this course are modest: do the readings and assignments, and come to seminar prepared with questions. Please arrive a few minutes early so that we may begin on time. Most seminars will be discussions, led by a faculty member or other historian and moderated by Prof. Kantrowitz. Guests will speak for approximately 15 minutes, and we will then open up the floor to questions and discussion.

Readings: For most meetings, one or two short pieces chosen by the guest will be posted on the class Learn@UW page a week in advance.

Assignments:

For our first meeting (Sept. 4), read the "The Ten Commandments of Graduate School," a recent blog post by Claire Potter, AKA "Tenured Radical" (a historian and resident blogger at the *Chronicle of Higher Education*).

For the Sept. 11 meeting, read the assigned pages from Banner, *Being a Historian* (posted at Learn@UW) and write a 150-250-word response. Post this to the course discussion list no later than 10 a.m. the morning of our meeting.

For the Sept. 18 meeting, read the posted materials on the debate over the embargo of doctoral dissertations. Post one question *and* one comment to the class list, no later than 10 a.m. that morning. Come to seminar prepared to discuss the pros and cons of the AHA's proposed standards.

For 7 of the 9 remaining weeks of readings and presentations by faculty guests (Sept. 25 - Dec. 11, but not Oct. 16 or Nov. 20) you should write **either**:

- a short reflection about the reading(s), to be posted no later than Wednesday morning at 10 a.m., prior to our meeting, **or**
- a short reflection about the faculty presentation and seminar, posted no later than noon on the Friday following our seminar.

These reflections may take the form of a short critique, a series of questions, or an evaluation of the texts (150-250 words).

To gain access to the readings and to post your reflections, you will need to use the class Learn@UW page. Go to Learn@UW (<https://learnuw.wisc.edu>) → log in using your net i.d. and password → locate your class list and click History 701 → click on "content" (for the readings) or "Discussion" (to post your comments) in the upper left hand corner.

Grading is based on attendance, on contributions to discussion, and on the thoughtful completion of writing assignments. **Please notify me in advance if you must be absent.**

Schedule of Meetings and Topics

9/4: "The Ten Commandments of Grad School"

9/11: *Being a Historian* (xi-xviii, 1-33)

9/18: Embargo

9/ 25: Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen

10/2: Emily Callaci

10/9: Judd Kinzley

10/16: Francisco Scarano

10/23: Laird Boswell

10/30: Pernille Ipsen

11/6: Kathy Borkowski and Sally Jacobs

11/13: You, the Historian

11/20: Leslie Abadie

12/4: Charles Kim

12/11: Gregg Mitman