

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History  
Fall, 1983

902 Research in Women's History

Prof. Gerda Lerner  
Tuesday 1:00-3:00  
5322 Soc Sci

In this seminar we will systematically prepare students in research methods, critical evaluation, synthesis and all the skills necessary to do independent research. Various short assignments will serve to teach and practice these skills. The main work of the seminar will be a historiographic essay of 18-24 pp., in which the student will survey a particular field, both as to primary and secondary sources.

Assignments are due the beginning of the week indicated. They are to be typed with wide margins, double-spaced. 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.

WEEK

SUBJECT

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|-----------|---|
| I         | Introduction. Overview of needed skills.<br>How to use reference books--discussion of specific research problems. |
| II        | Reference Room visit.<br>Note-taking, card system. How to keep research notes.                                    |
| III       | Document analysis. How to do documentary research.  |
| IV        | Historiography. How to do a historiographic essay.  |
| V         | Book reviews.   |
| VI        | What is a field essay, and how to do one.<br>Review of graduate reading.  |
| VII       | Footnotes--how to learn from them, how to use them.   |
| VIII      | Synthesis--how to synthesize a variety of sources.  |
| IX        | Significant and insignificant questions. What is important?   |
| X         | Progress report.  |
| XI        | Historical Journals--overview.  |
| XII       | A conceptual framework for Women's History  |
| XIII - XV | Read and critique student's work.   |