

History 193
Honors Thesis Research

Fall 2009 – U.C. Merced
Thursday 7:30-10:15 PM – Classroom Building 270

Instructor: Professor Sean Malloy (smalloy@ucmerced.edu)
Malloy Office Hours: COB 311, Wednesday 3:00-4:30 and by appointment
Course Website: Available via UCMCROPS

Course Description

The History Honors program offers students the opportunity to work closely with an individual faculty mentor on an extended, two-semester research project during their Senior year culminating in an Honor's Thesis of approximately 50-100 pages. In History 193, students will work with their assigned faculty mentor as well as the course instructor to identify a research topic, write a prospectus, compile an expanded bibliography of primary and secondary sources, write a brief review of the relevant historical writing related to your topic, and produce a detailed outline. By the end of this course, you should be ready to start writing a first draft of your Honors Thesis (which you will undertake in History 194).

We will not meet regularly as a class. Instead, after our initial meeting you will be assigned a faculty mentor with whom you will establish a meeting schedule. In addition, you will meet individually with the instructor on several dates (see below) to receive feedback on your assignments and discuss any questions, problems, or issues that have arisen in the course of your research. We will meet again as a class during the last week of the semester and each student will make brief presentation outlining the current status of their project.

Learning Objectives

1. Identifying productive historical questions
2. Identifying appropriate primary and secondary sources
3. Analyzing the major approaches to the topic

Course Requirements and Grading

There are four written assignments for this course. The first is a prospectus (2-4 pages) due September 24. In the prospectus you will briefly describe your proposed topic, including a series of questions that will guide your research a brief bibliography (of at least five items) of relevant secondary works. On October 15 you will submit an extended bibliography that should include at least 15 secondary works as well as a list of primary sources which you plan to consult.

An historiographical essay (7-10 pages) covering the major secondary works related to your topic is due November 5. In this essay, you will consult the works listed in your extended

bibliography in order to summarize the major findings, questions, and areas of disagreement among historians who have studied your topic previously.

The final written requirement of the course is a detailed outline of your Honors Thesis due on November 19. By the time you have finished the outline, you should be ready to begin writing the thesis. We will meet one last time as a class on December 3 at which point you will make a brief (approximately 15 min.) oral presentation summarizing the current status of your research project.

Grading breakdown:

Prospectus	25%	September 24
Extended bibliography	25%	October 15
Historiographical essay	25%	November 5
Thesis outline	25%	November 19

Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of California, Merced's Academic Honesty Policy. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e mail, an e mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy. Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Policy can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The University of California Merced is committed to ensuring equal academic opportunities and inclusion for students with disabilities based on the principles of independent living, accessible universal design and diversity. I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances. Students are encouraged to register with Disability Services Center to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1: Meet with Instructor

Week 2: Meet with faculty mentor; establish regular meeting schedule with mentor

Week 5: Prospectus due

Week 8: Extended bibliography due

Week 11: Historiographical essay due

Week 14: Outline due

Week 15: Oral presentations