



HISTORY 8010

SEMINAR IN MODERN U.S. HISTORY

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Spring 2013
Call # 7804
Th 2:20-5:15 pm
Dulles Hall 168

Office Hours: Th 1-2 pm & by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This graduate writing seminar is designed to allow students to complete a significant writing project (dissertation chapter, master's thesis chapter, prospectus, or journal article) over the course of the semester. We will begin by reading a recent text in Modern U.S. History as a model of writing before we embark on our own individual writing projects. Students will share drafts of their writing with the class and give each other constructive feedback on their projects. At the end of the semester, students will have the opportunity to present their work in a graduate symposium sponsored by the Race, Ethnicity, and Nation constellation. This is optional and not required.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Perales, Monica. *Smeltertown: Making and Remembering a Southwest Border Community*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2010.

Recommended:

Wendy Laura Belcher, *Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success* (Sage, 2009)

Joan Bolker, *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day: A Guide to Starting, Revising, and Finishing Your Doctoral Thesis* (Owl Books, 1998)

COURSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

****NOTE:** In accordance with departmental policy, all students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the department chair after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student.

Assignments

1. By January 17, consultation with me about the specific project to be completed during this semester. Students who have already written research proposals and/or have master's theses or dissertations already underway should reach an agreement with me about their own specific project for the semester (grant proposal, etc.).
2. A 3-5 page paper that summarizes and analyzes the secondary literature related to your topic (append a bibliography); explains how your project will expand and/or revise the existing work on the subject; and indicates the primary sources that you will use. (10%)

3. An 8-10 page research proposal that includes: a definition of the topic and justification of its significance to historical knowledge; a survey of the existing literature; the questions that will be addressed; the primary sources and approaches that will be used; a timetable for completion of the project; and a bibliography. (15%)
4. Two oral presentations, one based on the literature review and one based on the research proposal. On the Tuesday before your presentations, please post the written versions on Carmen so that I and other students in the class can read ahead of time. (10% each)
5. Final paper (20-25 pages) that includes your original research and that has incorporated the comments and feedback of the class. (30%)
6. Active participation in class discussion; reading and critiquing the work of all other students. Since we do not meet every week, it is imperative that you attend each time we do meet and that you participate fully in discussing each other's work. Each student will assume primary responsibility for critiquing one other student's work, including your own written evaluation of the paper and leading the discussion of that paper. The comments should address the following topics:
 - a. Briefly explain the subject matter of the paper and identify the central argument(s) that the author is making.
 - b. Identify strengths in terms of the quality of research and analysis, the persuasiveness of the argument, the significance of the contribution, the logic of the organization, and the clarity and fluency of the prose.
 - c. Offer constructive advice to improve the quality of research and analysis, the persuasiveness of the argument, the significance of the contribution, the logic of the organization, and the clarity and fluency of the prose. (25%)

Participants' final papers will be evaluated according to depth of research, strength of argument, contribution to the field, and quality of prose. Writing counts; style matters; and proper grammar is expected.

Evaluation/Grading

Final grade for the course will be determined by the following:

Literature Review	10
Research Proposal	15
Presentations (2 x 10%)	20
Final Paper	30
<u>Participation & Disc. Leading</u>	<u>25</u>
TOTAL	100%

No late work will be accepted, except under extraordinary circumstances. A participant who feels s/he is facing such a circumstance must contact me before the assignment's due date.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. Appropriate accommodations will be coordinated with The Office for Disability Services, 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; 292-3307, TDD 292-0901. For more information, visit <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

All cell phones should be turned off during class and any laptops/I-Pads in the classroom should be used strictly to take notes or do other course related tasks. Students found browsing on Facebook, checking email, surfing the web, doing other work, etc. will be asked to discontinue bringing computers to class.

Course Website/Carmen

This course has a page on Carmen (<http://carmen.osu.edu>). Students should check the website regularly for readings, announcements, course resources, and other information.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. This can include, but is not limited to: cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, which means misrepresenting as your own work any part of work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of all instructors concerned; depriving another student of necessary course materials; or interfering with another students' work. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Instructors are required to report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For the student, this may result in an E for the course and additional disciplinary action. Students are responsible for being familiar with the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

Class Cancellation Policy

In the unlikely event that a class meeting must be cancelled, I will contact you via email and request the History Department staff to place a note on our classroom door.

COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- 1/10 Introduction
- 1/17 Guest speaker – reading will be available on Carmen
- 1/24 Perales, *Smeltertown*
- 1/31 Guest speaker – reading will be available on Carmen
- 2/7 Research/Writing Day
- 2/14 Literature Review DUE & Presentations
- 2/21 Research/Writing Day
- 2/28 Research/Writing Day
- 3/7 Research Proposal DUE & Presentations
- 3/14 Spring Break—NO CLASS
- 3/21 Writing Day

3/28 Final Paper Rough Draft DUE

4/4 Writing Day

4/11 Writing Day

4/19 REN Graduate Symposium--Final Presentations
(Fri)

4/26 Final Papers DUE