

REVISED/FINAL
History 811 (Spring 2024)
DOCTORAL RESEARCH SEMINAR IN HISTORY

Prof. Rosemarie Zagarri
Email: rzagarri@gmu.edu

Office: Horizon Hall 3216

Office hours: Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and by appointment (zoom appointments available)

Required Text:

Zachary M. Schrag, *The Princeton Guide to Historical Research* (2021)—available online through Fenwick Library

Date:

Topic/Assignment:

Jan. 17

Conceptualizing Your Research Project

Reading: Sarah Maza, Ch. 4, "How is History Produced?" in *Thinking About History* (Chicago, 201), 118-156 (BLACKBOARD); Schrag, *Princeton Guide*, 51-64.

Writing Assignment: Make sure that you have submitted a short (one paragraph) statement of your research project/questions. Make certain that your Advisor has notified me, approving the topic. Also, be prepared to make a brief oral statement about your project to the class.

Jan. 24

Historical Sources and Resources (Bring your laptops.)

Listening: Listen to Ben Franklin's World Podcast #092, Sharon Block, "How to Research History Online" (approx. one hour) at www.benfranklinsworld.com.

Reading: Chris D. Cantwell, "From Index Cards to Text Files: Digital Workflows for Today's Historian," *The American Historian* (Nov. 2015), 16-19, (BLACKBOARD); Schrag, *Princeton Review*, 90-99, 103-120, 121-153 (skim).

In-Class ONLINE DATABASE EXERCISE

Jan. 31

History and Historiography

Reading: Marc Reyes, “Why Do Historians Still Have to Go to the Archives?” (Blackboard); Schrag, *Princeton Guide*, 186-207 (skim); 246-275.

Reading and Writing Assignment: Locate a historiographical essay related to your topic. It must be from a scholarly journal or volume of academic essays, preferably published within the last quarter century or so. Because of the specificity of individual topics, it may not be possible to find an essay that focuses precisely on your topic. Nonetheless, you should find an article that is related in some general way to your interests, subject, or approach. Write a three-page essay that

Feb. 7 Individual meetings/Independent Research

Reading: Christopher Tomlins, “Your Name in This Space,” *AHA Perspectives* (May 2002) (BLACKBOARD).

Feb. 21 Writing Strategies and the So-What Question?

Feb. 28 Individual Meetings/Independent Research

March 6 **SPRING BREAK**

Oral Presentation: In a short (5-7 minutes) oral presentation, discuss your research process to date. Describe how your topic has evolved over time, your major research questions, and the major genres of primary sources that you are using. Discuss where you are in the research process: what you have accomplished thus far and what more you need to do before beginning to write your essay.

Reading: Guide for Reviewers, sample review (BLACKBOARD); Schrag, *Princeton Review*, 289-308.

Independent Research and Writing (optional meetings)

April 3

Individual Meetings/Independent Research and Writing

Writing assignment: Turn in a draft Introduction, 3-5 pages

in length. The Introduction usually includes a discussion of the historical background or context, an analysis of the major relevant historiography, a discussion of your primary sources bases and/or the paper's theoretical framework. Also bring a brief (major headings only) preliminary outline of your paper, along with your tentative thesis statement.

April 10

Thinking about the Dissertation and Beyond

Reading: Andrew McIlwaine Bell, "Beat the Clock!"

Managing the Final Lap of Your PhD Program," *AHA Perspectives* (Dec. 2007) (BLACKBOARD); Brad S. Gregory, "Managing the Terror," *AHA Perspectives* (Jan. 2009) (BLACKBOARD)

April 17

PAPERS DUE BY 5:00 P.M.

Please send an email copy of your paper to your

reviewer and to me at rzagarri@gmu.edu. Email an abstract of your paper to all class members.

April 24

Discussion and Critique

Reading: R. Zagarri, The Path to Orals at GMU; Carl

Ashley, "Cover Letters and C.V.'s for History Job Seekers," *AHA Perspectives* (Dec. 2004) (BLACKBOARD); Keisha N. Blain, "Landing a Postdoctoral Fellowship," *Inside Higher Ed*, June 28, 2017 (BLACKBOARD).

Reading and Writing Assignment: Carefully read the paper assigned to you. Prepare a 1-to-2 page critique, keeping in mind the conventions of scholarly peer review. Bring two hard copies to class, one for the author and one for me. Prepare a short (no more than five minutes) oral presentation in which you concisely state the author's argument, mention one of the paper's major strengths and one of the major areas that need improvement. Also, read the abstracts for the other papers. Be prepared to pose questions to the authors.

FINAL PAPERS are due via email by 5:00 pm on MONDAY, May 6. Papers should be approximately 25–35 pages long, plus notes, and must use the appropriate scholarly apparatus for citations and bibliography found in *The Chicago Manual of Style* (available through Fenwick Library online databases) or in the shorter version, Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.

Grading:

Research Paper (first and second versions):	75%
Class discussions, oral presentations, other written assignments:	25%

Failure to attend class regularly and complete the preliminary assignments may result in failure for the class, even if a research paper is submitted.

Research papers will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- use of historiography
- range and depth of historical research (especially the use of primary sources)
- clarity of writing and organization
- statement of a historical argument; depth of analysis; and significance of historical contribution

DROP DEADLINES

The last day to drop a class with 100% tuition refund is Jan. 30. Unrestricted Withdrawal (no tuition refund) is from Feb. 7 to Feb. 20. The Selective Withdrawal period is from Feb. 21-March 25.

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

All GMU students are bound to abide by the Honor Code (<http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>). One of the most common honor code violations is plagiarism. Plagiarism, **which includes the use of ChatGPT or any kind of Artificial Intelligence**, is a broadly defined term that includes a wide spectrum of violations. Put most simply, it is appropriating another's words or ideas as if they were your own. It includes, but is not limited to, the use of another person's words without attribution or proper citation; submission of work that is not one's own, whether the work is stolen, purchased, or used with the author's permission; the too-close paraphrasing of another person's words or ideas. If you don't know if something constitutes plagiarism, ask the instructor. Honor Code violations will be turned over to the university Honor Board for disciplinary action.

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, INCLUDING CHATGPT, IS NOT ALLOWED IN THIS COURSE. *Violators will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns about what is permissible, please see me. For more information, see the Office of Academic Integrity website at <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/>.*

Students who need Academic Accommodations

If you are a student who needs academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474 or <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Diversity Policy

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty, and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services, and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. The Mason Diversity Statement can be found at <http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement/>.

Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, and Interpersonal Violence

George Mason University is committed to providing a learning, living and working environment that is free from discrimination and a campus that is free of sexual misconduct and other acts of interpersonal violence in order to promote community well-being and student success. We encourage students who believe that they have been sexually harassed, assaulted or subjected to sexual misconduct to seek assistance and support. University Policy 1202: Sexual Harassment and Misconduct speaks to the specifics of Mason's process, the resources, and the options available to students.

As a faculty member and designated "Responsible Employee," I am required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per university policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380).

You may also seek assistance from Mason's Title IX Coordinator (703-993-8730; titleix@gmu.edu)