

History 97
Sample Syllabus
Spring 2024

Purpose of the Course

History 97 or Sophomore Tutorial is the only course required of all History concentrators and is designed as an introduction to the discipline and the Department. It is offered only in spring and sophomore concentrators must take it that year, though the course always accepts some students who enter the concentration late. History 97 consists of 5 parallel seminars, each of which is formulated thematically and have separate reading assignments. Students across all seminars will be assigned similarly structured writing assignments, with similar due dates. History 97 is designed to be a shared experience that will equip students with a basic familiarity with the skills required for successful writing and research in history. The course seeks to develop several skills at the core of work in history: searching for and evaluating relevant secondary sources; engaging with historiography, close-reading primary sources, constructing an evidence-based historical argument, writing with footnotes, articulating constructive criticism, and revising writing based on feedback from instructors and peers.

Structure of the Course

The course consists of four units of three weeks each. In the first two weeks of each unit, the course will meet as a full seminar. During the third week of each unit each course will split to meet in two tutorial sessions of 75 minutes each in which students will peer review the papers of the four members of each tutorial, with approximately 20 minutes of discussion for each student's work.

Course Requirements

All papers (except the draft and the final submission of the final paper) are due at 5pm two days before the course meets, i.e. ___ days at 5pm. Papers must be submitted using the course website Dropbox. Percentages refer to each assignment's percentage of the final grade.

- *Paper #1 Draft* (1000 words) due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday **4/5/6 Feb** February, 5pm;
Paper #1 Revision (1000 words) due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 11/12/13 February, 5pm: 10%
- *Paper #2 Draft* (Historiographic Essay, 1500 words) due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday **25/26/27 Feb**, 5pm; *Paper #2 Revision* (Historiographic Essay, 1500 words) due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday **3/4/5 March**, 5pm: 10%
- *Final paper statement of topic and final paper annotated bibliography* due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday **March 24/25/26**, 5pm
- *Paper #3* (Primary Source Analysis, 1500 words) due **March 31/ April 1/ April 2**, 5pm:

10%, no revision, builds toward final paper

- Final Project Portfolio, 30%
 - *Final paper thesis statement and final paper outline* due Sunday/Monday/Tuesday **7/8/9 April**, 5pm
 - *Final project presentations*: 9/10/11 April, during seminar
 - *Paper #4 Draft* (Final paper, 3500 words) due Saturday/ Sunday/ Monday **20/21/22 April**, 5pm; *Paper #4 Revision* (Final Paper, 3500 words) due **Thursday May 2, 5pm** (earliest exam date for the 97 seminars)
- Participation in seminar (20%) + participation in tutorial (20%) = 40% of final grade

Readings not for sale will be provided via the course website.

For course policies see the website and separate handout—we will discuss them all on Sept 12.

Unit 1: The Practice of History

Introducing the fundamentals of academic historical study

Week I week of Jan 22 (seminars meet on Tues, Wed or Thurs): Seminar – Introduction to Seminar Theme/ Discussion of Common Coursewide Reading

Common reading : Lynn Hunt, *History. Why It Matters* (2018)

+ something specific to each seminar

Evening Plenary Session Monday Jan 29, Tsai auditorium

[6:00-6:30 - dinner and mingling

6:30-6:45 - Introduction by DUS and ADUS; the 97 faculty each just wave when their name is called

6:45-7:15 - Panel with Juniors and Seniors]

Week II (week of Jan 29): Seminar

Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 4/5/6Feb, 5pm: Paper #1 Draft due

Week III (week of Feb 5): Tutorials

Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 11/12/13Feb, 5pm: Paper #1 Revision due

Unit 2: Historiography

Identifying and understanding successive layers of historical interpretation

Week IV (week of Feb 12): Seminar

In Weeks 4 and 5: Include some version of these instructions to students: Please come to office hours (as per sign-up distributed in seminar) to decide on a historical theme/area of interest to you, which will be the focus of paper #2 and ideally build toward your final paper. This is an appointment held jointly with both your instructors.

Week V (week of Feb 19): Seminar

Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 25/26/27 Feb, 5pm Paper #2 Draft due

Week VI (week of Feb 26): Tutorials

Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 3/4/5 March, 5pm: Paper #2 Revision due

Unit 3: Primary Source Analysis

Highlighting the range of historians 'primary sources and of ways of analyzing them.

Week VII (week of March 4): Seminar archive visit week (to Houghton, Schlesinger, Loeb, etc). Visiting an on-campus archive this week will set students up for the next unit on primary source analysis. In the past, faculty have chosen one archival site suited to their seminar theme and coordinated with archivists and librarians in the Schlesinger Library, Houghton, etc. to pull materials for students to read. Many librarians/archivists will also put on presentations related to the basics of archival research upon request. Individual faculty should schedule these visits as appropriate for their seminar.

Spring Break –week of March 11

Week VIII (week of March 18): Seminar. Recommended: schedule a seminar visit from Fred Burchsted or Anna Assogba to discuss search techniques.

Sunday/Monday/Tuesday March 24/25/26 5pm: Final Paper statement of topic and final paper annotated bibliography due

Week IX 31week of March 25: Tutorials

Sunday/Monday/Tuesday March 31/ April 1/2, 5pm: Paper #3 due (primary source analysis—this one is not peer-reviewed since we used the tutorial to discuss formulations of the final paper)

Unit 4: Synthesis

Merging historiographic and primary source analyses into historical arguments

Week X (week of April 1) Seminar

Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 7/8/9 April: Final paper thesis statement and final paper outline due (not peer reviewed, just to keep students on track for the presentations)

Week XI (week of April 8): Seminar (presentations)

Week XII (week of April 15): Seminar (presentations)

Saturday/Sunday/Monday 20/21/22 April: Paper #4 Draft of Final paper due 72 hours before tutorials (note change from previous pattern!)

Week XIII (week of April 22)—tutorials with peer review of the final paper drafts.

Thurs April 25, 4pm--CLASS PARTY joint with Concentration reception

Final papers due on Thursday, May 2 (=earliest exam date for the 97s [97b])