

UCSB Hist 133P, Winter 2014
PROSEMINAR ON GERMAN HISTORY
Tue & Thu 11-12:15, HSSB 4041

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Office: HSSB 4222, M & W, 11am-noon

HIST 133P: PROSEMINAR ON GERMAN HISTORY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The History Department has the following definition in the UCSB general catalog:

"**The Proseminar.** The particular skills of historians are the ability to **define issues**, to **gather information** pertinent to a solution, and to **digest** and **report** that information in a clear and well-conceived argument. These skills, which are summed up by the word "research," are especially cultivated in undergraduate proseminars, in which the entire term is devoted to preparing a paper on a specialized topic of research."

In sum, a proseminar offers students the opportunity to do what historians do professionally: conduct original research and present their results orally and in writing. We begin this course with finding topics of interest within German history of the 20th century, and formulating research questions about those topics. We then turn to research methods: finding secondary works and primary sources, and excerpting, organizing, analyzing and interpreting our findings. Finally, the seminar provides a forum for the oral and written presentation of the results.

As far as possible these projects should draw on original source material (e.g. diaries, letters, speeches, contemporary diplomatic and newspaper reports, memoirs, autobiographies, etc.). Knowledge of German is not required.

REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

- a) **Attendance** is essential. Regular exchange with your peers and mentors is an important part of the research process. You should always come to class meetings with your own agenda in mind: the materials, ideas, questions, and problems you want to discuss.
Send me an e-mail *in advance* of the class meeting should an emergency situation arise. Otherwise you must provide written documentation in order for an absence to be excused.
- b) **Gauchospace**: We will be posting, reading and exchanging work on the Gauchospace course website. Please be sure to post a photo of yourself on your GS profile.
- c) **Several short written assignments**
You will need to purchase a package of 4"x6" index cards.
- d) An **oral presentation** (ca. 10 minutes) of the results of your research, based on a **thesis paper** handout.
- e) A **research paper**: 18-20 text pages (double spaced, 1½x1x1" margins, 12 pt. proportional space font), plus an **annotated bibliography** of primary sources, secondary books and articles.
A complete draft is due on Wednesday, **Feb. 27**; a final version on **Wednesday, March 19, by 3pm**.

Grading: roughly half of your final grade will be based on the final paper. Roughly 25% each are based on classroom participation and timely submission of the various assignments.

Plagiarism—presenting someone else's work as your own, or deliberately failing to credit or attribute the work of others on whom you draw (including materials found on the web)—is a serious academic offense, punishable by dismissal from the university. Ultimately those who commit it will lose the most (even if they are not caught), by cheating themselves out of an education. I report offenses to the appropriate university authorities for disciplinary action, namely expulsion from UCSB.

REQUIRED BOOK/READINGS

- Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* (Boston: Bedford, 7th ed. **2012**), ca. \$21. This handy booklet gives advice about how to research, organize and write a history paper. It includes examples of how to cite primary and secondary sources. The 2007 fifth and 2009 sixth editions of this book are also acceptable. [UCSB library: D13 .R295 2007]
- Essays and chapters: various additional readings will be posted on Gauchospace.

SCHEDULE

1. Jan. 7	Introduction: finding topics	For Wednesday: Read <i>Pocket Guide</i> , chapter 5, esp. section a. Make a list of <i>at least</i> 3 research topics that would interest you. Give a <i>one paragraph</i> elaboration of each, <i>including questions</i> you might investigate having to do with that topic. You will present some of these topics in class on Thursday.
Jan. 9	Discussion of topics; finding sources on them	
2. Jan. 14	In-depth searching (Zotero for Firefox)	For the research topics that interest you most, prepare a 2 page prospectus including a title , a statement of main questions and hypotheses , and a bibliography of at least 10 primary sources, books and articles. Use proper citation formats (<i>Guide 7b & c</i>). Bring one of your books to class!
Jan. 16	2 page proposal due	
3. Jan. 21	Results of searches	Bring to class a list of keywords or keyword combinations. Search PEGASUS, MELVYL, ACADEMIC SEARCH COMPLETE, AMAZON and Google Books and Scholar: 1) for the key or title words in your list; 2) for the subject tracers of books you found in 1; and 3) for the authors of the most promising works retrieved in 1 and 2. Finally, group the relevant call numbers and do an "unsystematic search" in the stacks.
Jan. 23	Working with primary sources	
4. Jan. 28	Excerpting from books, outlining	For one of the most relevant books or articles you have found, make a set of index cards. These should include 1) one primary bibliography card, 2) at least three secondary bibliography cards, and 3) at least 7 keyword cards. Bring the book (or article) you used to class.
Jan. 30	Index cards and note taking	
5. Feb. 4	[late start] Outlines	Discussion of note taking and index cards, proper citation format. Practice constructing sample outlines
Feb. 6	individual meetings	
6. Feb. 11	Annotated bibliographies and literature reviews	5 pages (including introduction) due Come to class prepared to discuss difficulties you encountered and problems you are having. (Success stories welcome!) Thu: return installments with comments
Feb. 13	Quoting and footnoting	
7. Feb. 18	Peer reviewing	10 more pages due
Feb. 20	Writing a thesis paper	
8. Feb. 25	Using Powerpoint effectively	Draft thesis papers (group I) due
Feb. 27	Return thesis paper drafts	Complete draft of paper due ; exchange for peer reviewing
9. Mar. 4	Return paper drafts	Draft thesis papers (group II) due
Mar. 6	Return thesis paper drafts	discussion of presentation strategies & techniques
X. Mar. 11	Oral presentations	presentations by Group I
Mar. 13	Oral presentations	presentations by Group II
March 19	Wednesday, 3pm:	ABSOLUTE FINAL DEADLINE: PAPERS DUE in professor's office