

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Semester II, 1993-94

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Office Hours  
M & W 11:00-12:30  
or by appointment

History 571  
Undergraduate Seminar in American History

Required Texts:

Barzun, Jacques, and Henry F. Graff, *The Modern Researcher*  
Strunk, William, and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style*  
Turabian, Kate L., *A Manual for Writers*

Optional Texts:

Fischer, David Hackett, *Historians' Fallacies: Toward a Logic of Historical Thought*  
Frucha, Francis Paul, *Handbook for Research in American History. A Guide to Bibliographies and Other Reference Works*

During the semester you are enrolled in this course, you will write an extended (ie., 30 page) historical essay based upon primary research in the State Historical Society. The required readings, class meetings, and grades are designed with this goal in mind.

Attendance: The schedule of meetings is given below. During the first few weeks, we will discuss *The Modern Researcher*. For the remainder of the course we will meet to talk about the shared challenges of researching, organizing, and writing your papers. Students are expected to attend all class meetings. If illness or some other misadventure causes you to miss class, please let me know as soon as possible.

On weeks the class does not meet, I will hold office hours from 1-3 on Wednesday for the members of the seminar. If you wish, I will provide a sign-up sheet for these office hours. You are encouraged to stay in touch during those weeks we do not meet.

Readings: The assigned texts are classics; each addresses questions of method and technique and should prove invaluable as you undertake this research project. As noted, we will discuss *The Modern Researcher* in class. The other two will be necessary as you confront questions about style, grammar, and citation. Be sure to allocate enough time to read the assigned sections of *The Modern Researcher* before you come to class.

Research paper: At the outset of class, I will distribute a list of suggested research topics with a basic bibliography. You may select one of these or you may devise a topic of your own. The only requirements are that it be a topic in some way related to American economic development between 1860 and 1920 and that it incorporate original research in primary documents.

To insure that you make reasonable progress, I am setting a sequence of deadlines for various stages of the research paper. A one page description of the topic will be due by the third week of class, progress reports by the sixth and ninth weeks, a complete first draft by the twelfth week, and a final draft by the last day of classes.

Grades: 25% of your grade will be based upon class attendance, participation, and meeting the deadlines for the various stages of your paper. 75% of your grade will be based upon the paper itself.

#### Meeting Schedule:

Jan. 26: Introductions and Historical Society tour

Feb. 2: Discussion of *The Modern Researcher*, pp. 1-50. Also prepare a one or two paragraph analysis of the best academic book you have read.

Feb. 9: Discussion of *The Modern Researcher*, pp. 51-206.

Feb. 16: Discussion of paper topics. Students will submit a one page description of their topics with a brief bibliography.

Mar. 2: Discussion of *The Modern Researcher*, pp. 209-328.

Mar. 16: Discussion of research to date. Progress reports due.

Apr. 6: Discussion of research to date. Second progress report due.

Apr. 20: Completed first draft due.

Apr. 27: Discussion of papers.

May 4: Discussion of papers.

May 11: Discussion of papers.

May 13: Research papers due.