

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

History 902
Research Seminar in American History

Professor Herbst
Fall, 1982

19th Century Social History
=====

The seminar is based on the idea that learning to ask the right questions is the most important part of historical research. We shall begin with a visit to the State Historical Society to become familiar with the aids to and tools of research. We shall then use chapters 2, 5, and 11 of Lawrence A. Cremin's American Education: The National Experience, 1783-1876, to give us common background on 19th century institutions and practices. Based on our readings and discussions of Cremin's book, the seminar will review proposals for individual research projects which, at the end of the semester, are to be concluded with a finished paper. In the remaining sessions the seminar will discuss questions of research and writing and of the nature of history as a discipline.

Students are expected to have at their disposal the following books:

Lawrence A. Cremin, American Education: The National Experience, 1783-1876
Frank Freidel, ed., Harvard Guide to American History, rev. ed.
Jacques Barzun and Henry F. Graff, The Modern Researcher, rev. ed.
Edward Hallett Carr, What is History?

Schedule of Classes and Assignments:

- September 2 : Introduction to the Seminar
For the next meeting on September 9, read Freidel, ed., Harvard Guide, pp. 58-134 and, after the September 8 or 9 visit to the State Historical Society, prepare a memorandum to yourself on what you find most valuable to remember. The memorandum should contain the sort of information, reminders, hints that you think you will turn to with profit in the future. The memorandum is due in class on September 16.
- 9 : Visit to the State Historical Society. (The visit may have to be scheduled at a different time and date.)
- 16: For this meeting have read and be prepared to discuss chapters 2, 5, and 11 of Lawrence Cremin, American Education: The National Experience. When you read these chapters, ask yourself: What do they tell us? What don't they tell us? What questions or topics do they suggest for further inquiry? Remember that you yourself are in search of a topic for a semester paper or, if you have one already in mind, that you will want to sharpen your question or refine your perspective.

History 902

Professor Herbst
Fall, 1982

September 23)
)
September 30) Discussion of student proposals for semester papers
)
October 7)

October 14 : Discussion of student memoranda on research and on Freidel, ed.,
 Harvard Guide, pp. 58-134

 21 : Discussion of Barzun and Graff, Modern Researcher on "Writing History",
 pp. 255-385.

 28 : Discussion of Carr, What is History?

November 4)
)
 11) Open - to be determined by seminar

November 18)
)
December 2) Presentation and discussion of semester papers
)
December 9)

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester Fall Year 1982

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
902	Research Seminar in American History: 19th Century Social History	Herbst

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The seminar is based on the idea that learning to ask the right questions is the most important part of historical research. We shall begin with a visit to the State Historical Society to become familiar with the aids to and tools of research. We shall then use chapters 2, 5, and 11 of Lawrence A. Cremin, American Education: The National Experience, 1783-1876, to give us common background on 19th century institutions and practices. Based on our readings and discussions of Cremin's book, the seminar will review proposals for individual research projects which, at the end of the semester, are to be concluded with a finished paper. In the remaining sessions the seminar will discuss questions of research and writing and of the nature of history as a discipline.

LECTURES

not applicable

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Each student will be required to submit a research memorandum (9/16), a research proposal (9/23), and a semester research paper (11/18).

GRADING SYSTEM

A-F

REQUIRED READINGS

Lawrence A. Cremin, American Education: The National Experience, 1783-1876
Frank Freidel, ed., Harvard Guide to American History, rev. ed.
Jacques Barzun and Henry F. Graff, The Modern Researcher, rev. ed.
Edward Hallett Carr, What is History?