

CAS HI 402
Tuesdays 12:00-3:00
Spring 2014
HIS 304

Professor Sarah Phillips
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room 208, 226 BSR, 617.353.9914
office hrs: Thurs 1:00-3:00, and by appt.

History Honors: Senior Thesis Seminar II

In the second semester of this year-long course, students will complete their projects, producing a senior thesis of 40–50 pages with an original guiding argument based on research in primary sources. **Your first complete draft is due the Tuesday after Spring Break (March 17), and your final thesis is due on Tuesday, April 15.** Theses must be footnoted in accordance with the *Chicago Manual of Style* (consult Turabian).

In the spring semester you will be placed in one of two small reading groups. While you will read every course member's final draft, it is your special responsibility to help each member of your small group through the preliminary steps. The schedule of group meetings and deadlines is outlined below. **Please distribute copies of required materials to your small group members and to the professor by the Friday (3:00 pm) before a Tuesday meeting. The professor requires a HARD COPY; your classmates have the option of commenting on electronic copies or on hard copies.** For group meetings you must read and comment on each member's material. Please write questions and comments in the margins, just as an instructor would, and write a few sentences at the end addressing conceptualization, organization, argument, use of evidence, etc. In other words, your comments do not need to be typed separately but they must exhibit thoroughness and engagement. **Many students prefer to refer to electronic copies during class: you may rely on electronic copies only if (1) all parties bring a computer to class in order to look at papers as they are discussed; and (2) if comments are written on the electronic copies and sent to both writer and instructor.**

Small group assignments:

Group I (U.S./Empire): Lavalley; Miller; Papsdorf; Ruiz-Diaz

Group II (Great Britain): Hammoudi; Kolodkin; Reddy; Tang

In late April or early May you will defend your thesis orally before two faculty members: the outside advisor and a third reader. The instructor will help you identify and approach committee members. **Your spring semester course grade will be decided by your defense committee and the course instructor on the basis of the quality of the final product (the defended version of the thesis).** Students who fulfill the requirements for HI 401 and HI 402, and who receive a grade of B+ or higher on the thesis, will graduate with Honors in History.

Jan. 21: No class. Start expanding and revising your December essays. The first week of class, each student must schedule an independent meeting with the instructor to discuss progress made over the winter break and future plans. You need to start revising and expanding your December essays to include: (1) use of primary research and primary sources; (2) the stirrings of an overarching argument; and (3) a proposed thesis outline.

Jan. 28: Group I meets to discuss 20-page (revised December) essays and thesis outlines. You need to revise and expand your December essays to include: (1) initial incorporation of primary research and primary sources; (2) the stirrings of an overarching argument; and (3) a proposed thesis outline.

Feb. 4: Group II meets to discuss 20-page (revised December) essays and thesis outlines. You need to revise and expand your December essays to include: (1) initial incorporation of primary research and primary sources; (2) the stirrings of an overarching argument; and (3) a proposed thesis outline.

Feb. 11: No class. You are welcome to use the regular classroom during class time if you want to meet with your classmates to swap advice and encouragement.

Feb. 18: Group I meets to discuss 35-page essays

Feb. 25: Group II meets to discuss 35-page essays

Mar. 4: No class. Sometime this week, schedule an independent meeting with instructor to discuss Spring Break draft completion plan. You are also welcome to use the regular classroom during class time if you want to meet with your classmates to swap advice and encouragement.

[SPRING RECESS March 10-14]

Mar. 18: No class – but COMPLETE DRAFT due in hard copy to instructor and outside advisor by 4pm. Electronic copies due to all classmates.

Mar 25: Entire class discusses 4 drafts: schedule TBA; electronic copies to classmates are fine. Written comments to small group members still required; oral comments to others OK.

Apr. 1: Entire class discusses 4 drafts: schedule TBA; electronic copies to classmates are fine. Written comments to small group members still required; oral comments to others OK.

Apr. 8: No class. Sometime this week, schedule an independent meeting with instructor to discuss thesis completion plan. You are also welcome to use the regular classroom during class time if you want to meet with your classmates to swap advice and encouragement.

Apr. 15: THESIS DUE TO INSTRUCTOR AND OUTSIDE ADVISOR BY 4 PM. Electronic copies due to classmates.

We will not meet as a group after April 1. During the month of April you will polish the thesis with help from the instructor, the outside advisor, and your classmates. You are welcome to use the regular classroom during class time if you want to meet with your classmates and swap advice.

In April we will also make arrangements for the oral defenses. We will schedule an end-of-semester party separately.

COMMENCEMENT: May 17