

Spring Semester, 2006

Professor Karl A. Schleunes

HIS 709/ Introductory Research Seminar

General Course Description:

There are no required texts or readings in this seminar. Neither will there be a specific topic that we will be exploring together. The seminar will be given over entirely to questions related to research methods, sources, and writing. The final product for each student will be a polished *research proposal* to be submitted, supposedly, to a granting agency for funding. The proposal needs to be polished and persuasive. You will need to convince the funding agency that you have an important topic, that you have the primary source material to complete the research and that you have found either a “hole” or a controversy in the secondary literature that warrants further investigation – and funding.

I will play the role of the granting agency in evaluating your final research proposal. I will have at my disposal \$200,000 of play money. The bulk of that money will go to the most polished and persuasive proposals.

The course outlined above is in accord with the catalog description of HIS 709 which says it “Will focus on methods, sources, and writing; research paper based on primary and contextualized in secondary sources.” (*UNCG Graduate School Bulletin [2005-06]*, p.171.)

General Information:

Office: 204 McIver Building

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursday -- 9:30-11:00 AM (or by appointment)

Wednesdays -- 5:30-6:30 PM (or by appointment)

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E-Mail: kaschleu@uncg.edu

Specific Course Instructions:

There will be no single topical focus as such in this course. Each student is free to develop his or her own research proposal, preferably in modern European history – meaning in the 19th or 20th centuries.

The three basic stages in this course will be:

1. *finding* a research topic that is “doable,” insofar as sufficient primary source material is available. This is not as easy as it sounds. You will need to do considerable “scouting” to locate the material you will need. (Remember, major repositories are available here at UNCG and also at Duke and Chapel Hill.)
2. *checking* for relevant secondary literature on your topic. Your first major “writing” assignment will be a two-step one:
 - a. Prepare an “exhaustive” bibliography of available monographs and scholarly articles as well as of primary source material available on your topic,
 - b. From the “exhaustive” list noted above, prepare an annotated bibliography of the 20-30 most important pieces of both of the secondary literature and the primary sources. (You will also need to append this bibliography to your final research proposal.) The question(s) you will be addressing in your research will be evident in the annotations in this bibliography. (This assignment will require a great deal of reading on your part.)*
Due Dates: The first of these assignments, the “exhaustive” bibliography, will be due by early/mid-February and the annotated bibliography by mid-March.
3. *producing* as a final product a research proposal in narrative form to be submitted to me for” funding.” This proposal, therefore, needs to be refined and persuasive, all in no more than ten typed pages. (double spaced in 12-point font)
4. In addition to the proposal itself, you will need to append a cover letter, a c.v., the annotated bibliography, and a proposed budget. This will need to be submitted in a manila file-folder.

Our class meetings will be given over to discussion of the problems presented by each of the stages outlined above.

* NB! Turabian will be the style sheet for the annotated bibliography and footnotes.

