

Spring Semester, 2007

Professor Karl A. Schleunes

HIS 709/ Introductory Research Seminar

Required Text:

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research* (2nd ed., 2003). Henceforth cited as BCW,

General Information:

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General Course Description:

There will be no required text in this seminar other than the one shown above which is essentially a handbook on the “craft of research” published by the University of Chicago Press.

Neither will there be a specific topic that we will be exploring together. Although I am a German historian, you are free to select a topic that is in line with your major interest. This is not to say that I would not welcome your working on a topic in (or related to) modern German history. The advantage in doing so would be, of course, that I could be more helpful to you.

This being a graduate-level “Introductory Research Seminar” means we will be spending a good portion of our time on the mechanics of conducting historical research. There will be a heavy emphasis on matters related to research methods, the location of sources, and the problems confronted in writing a seminar paper. The final product for each student will be a relatively short (ca. 20 pages) seminar paper. This is to be preceded by the submission of a 3-4 page research proposal and an extensive annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources. Most class sessions will be devoted to discussion of problems and situations we encounter in our research.

Specific Course Instructions:

The four basic stages in this course will be:

1. *finding* a research topic that is “doable,” insofar as sufficient primary source material is available. This may not be 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.). Section II of BCW should be useful here.
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. Due Dates: The first of these assignments, the “exhaustive” bibliography, will be due by mid-February and the annotated bibliography by mid-March.* Section III of BCW should be useful here.
3. *producing* as 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 304 typed pages. (double spaced in 12-point font) I will play the role a funding agency in evaluating your proposal. In that role I will have at my disposal some \$250,000 of “play” money. That money will be apportioned to each you on the basis of the polish and persuasiveness of your proposal. In addition to the proposal itself, you will need to append a cover letter, a c.v., your annotated bibliography, and a proposed budget. This needs to be submitted in a manila file-folder. Due Date: Late March.
4. The final paper should be around 20 pages long.* Due Date: May 2 Again, Section III of BCW should be consulted in preparing the paper.

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 footnote citations in your final paper..

