**RESEARCH METHODS**

*History is always written wrong, and so always needs to be rewritten.*
--George Santayana

*History is not a science; it is a method.*
--Charles Seignobos

*History is neither watchmaking nor cabinet construction. It is an endeavor toward better understanding.*
--Marc Bloch

*Nothing is easier to teach than historical method, but, when learned, it has little use.*
--Henry Adams

*Revisionism is a healthy historiographical process, and no one, not even revisionists, should be exempt…*
--John Lewis Gaddis

*History is, indeed, an argument without end.*
Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.

History 5984: Research Methods (CRN 16438) Spring 2007, Major Williams 427, Tuesday 2-5 pm
Instructor: Associate Professor Tom Ewing
Office hours: Tuesday, 10:00-12:00, Wednesday, 1:15-2:15 pm, and by appointment
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Research methods is designed to teach the skills necessary for successful research at the M.A. level in History. Through engaged discussions, critical readings, and informed analysis around common themes and individualized topics, the class will identify, develop, and reinforce the methods of historical research. A selection of theoretically informed readings will provide the common discourse for historiographical analysis. During the semester, each student will work on the necessary parts of a thesis proposal, including analysis of a variety of primary sources, review of relevant secondary literature, exploration of an appropriate theoretical framework, and development of analytical questions.

Objectives:
- To identify, recognize, and develop skills of historical research
- To build a theoretical vocabulary relevant for historiographical discussions
- To work collaboratively with classmates to strengthen analytical capacities
- To develop an individual topic of original research suitable for an M.A. thesis
- To complete the component parts of a thesis proposal

Course requirements:
Class participation, leading seminars, weekly writings, and in class exercises 30%
Analytical papers 3 @ 4-6 pages, due February 2, February 23, and March 23 30%
Final paper, including outline, draft, and presentation, 15 pages, due May 3 40%

Papers may be submitted electronically to the instructor’s email. Please send your paper as a pdf file. Weekly writing assignments are due by 9 am on the day of class. Please submit them using the course list-serve available through Blackboard. All assigned readings will be available through the course documents section of Blackboard. In addition to the readings listed on the syllabus, significant readings will be provided for the class by each student throughout the semester. Each student will lead discussion of one concept reading and a particular type of primary source. In the spirit of creative and critical engagement, readings and assignments are subject to change during the semester.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| January 16 | Introduction to Research Methods  
Primary source: Spaces and Places |                                                                           |
| January 23 | Concepts: Power  
| January 30 | Concepts: Agency  
Primary source: Diaries  
| February 6 | Concepts: Gender  
| February 13 | Concepts: Structure  
| February 20 | Concepts: Resistance  
Primary source: Government documents  
| February 27 | Concepts: Identity  
| March 3     | Spring Break: No Class |                                                                           |
| March 13    | Concepts: Culture  
| March 20    | Concepts: Discourse  
Primary source: Advertisements  
| March 27    | No Class |                                                                           |
| April 3     | Presentations | Primary Sources and Secondary Studies relevant to presentation topics |
| April 10    | Presentations | Primary Sources and Secondary Studies relevant to presentation topics |
| April 17    | Presentations | Primary Sources and Secondary Studies relevant to presentation topics |
| April 24    | Panel: The Uses of an M.A. in History | American Historical Assoc., Retrieving the Master’s Degree from the Dustbin of History |
| May 1       | History’s Future  