

HIS 601. Seminar in European History

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If you're signed up for HIS 601, by the time you read this you should have arranged with a faculty member to be your "seminar mentor," who has agreed to work with you one-on-one in the process of researching, writing, and revising (!) a formal research paper. (Indeed, you should ideally already have begun at least some reading in secondary sources relevant to your already-chosen topic.) The seminar proper—*i.e.*, where students and I will get together—will be devoted to progress reports, discussion of common areas of interest, and the like. *All substantive matters relating to your seminar paper are to be determined by you and your seminar mentor.* At our first meeting, we will settle upon a precise schedule of meetings agreeable to all (three-hour blocks, though we may not always need that much time).

Our work will consist of the following:

- (1) By the third or fourth week you will produce a roughly one-page prospectus (including major primary and secondary sources), the essence of which you will present orally to the group (5-10 minutes apiece). We'll then have a group discussion of whatever problems and issues come up, including feedback from me and the other students (five are signed up as of a week before the start of the semester).
- (2) Shortly after the middle of the semester you will deliver an oral progress report (not read, though you should write it up) to the group of around 10-15 minutes, followed by a roundtable discussion. Once again, all will profit from an airing of problems and successes.
- (3) By the second week before the end of classes—or, failing that, by the last week of classes—students will have distributed copies of their papers to each other and me via email (Word or WordPerfect, please!). Since there are not too many of us, it will be feasible for us to meet during the last week of classes to discuss them and provide suggestions for polishing. *Final drafts of your papers are due with your mentor during exam period. It is your responsibility to work with them in settling upon a mutually workable schedule of deadlines.*

You should be sure to submit copies of your prospectus and progress report to you mentor as well as to the seminar. At the end of the semester I will submit to your mentor a brief assessment of your participation. As I will not actually assign you any grade, it will be wholly up to your mentor whether or not such assessment will play a role in your seminar grade. This is a matter for you to clarify with your mentor. There should

be no confusion, however, over the fact that it's ultimately the quality of the paper you produce that's of most concern to all.