

History 709

Introductory Research Seminar: How to Organize a Chapter Spring 2006

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Reserve Room Reading:

Jack P. Greene, *Imperatives, Behaviors, & Identities: Essays in Early American Cultural History*

-----, *Negotiated Authorities: Essays in Colonial Political and Constitutional History*

-----, *Understanding the American Revolution: Issues and Actors*

-----, *Interpreting Early America: Historiographical Essays*

Course Schedule:

Jan. 10 Introduction to the Course

Jan. 17 Select two early American historians whose book-length works you admire.

Prepare an introduction to their work and include an appraisal of three of their chapters, one a literary triumph, another a conceptual model, and still another a powerful interpretation. Read *Interpreting Early America*, chapters 5 and 18.

Jan. 24 Select ten prefaces from books in early American history and explain how these pieces of prose help identify key chapters in literary, conceptual, and interpretive terms. Prepare an explanation. Read *Negotiated Authorities*, chapters 14 and 15.

Jan. 31 Select ten tables of contents as indicators of key chapters. Prepare an explanation. Read *Understanding the American Revolution*, chapters 9 and 10.

Feb. 7 Describe a historical work you intend, sometime in the future, to write. Include speculation about how this study will be structured into parts, chapters, and other units of prose. Read *Imperatives, Behaviors, & Identities*, chapters 6, 10, and 11.

Feb. 14 Read Winthrop D. Jordan, *White over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro, 1550-1812*, chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 12 and pp. 581-582. Apply Jordan's purposes in these chapters to the designing of a chapter in your hypothetical book.

Feb. 21 Read Gordon S. Wood, *The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787* Chapters 1, 2, 14, and 15. Apply Wood's techniques to the organization of your hypothetical chapter.

Feb. 28 Read Linda Kerber, *Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America*, chapters 4 and 7. Apply Kerber's conceptualization (that is, what constitutes a coherent unit of historical experience) to your hypothetical chapter.

Mar. 14 Write a five page (12,500 word) segment of your hypothetical chapter.

Mar. 21 to April 25 Revise each week your five pages in response to class criticism and suggestions.

May 2 Present your final revision.