

Honors in History
HIST 692H, Spring 2018
Fridays 1:25-3:55 p.m., Dey 302

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Welcome back! You can congratulate yourself for researching and writing two chapters last semester. I hope you had a restful break and are ready to continue your good work. Please keep meeting regularly with your adviser and, of course, feel free to confer with me and your classmates whenever we can be useful.

Two deadlines are extremely important for you to keep in mind:

- (1) You must meet with your two-person orals committee by *Tuesday, April 3*. Give a complete copy of your thesis to your committee members at least a week prior to the committee meeting.
- (2) You must electronically submit your final thesis, with the signatures of your committee members, by *Friday, April 27*. This deadline is set by Honors Carolina and is non-negotiable.

If you haven't already, you need to identify a faculty member to serve as your second reader on the orals committee. You should have your second reader on board by mid-February. Feel free to talk with me (as well as your adviser) about who would be appropriate.

As the semester begins, you should be beginning to:

- revise your first two chapters based on the feedback you have gotten
- research and draft your final chapter (due soon!)

Class Schedule

January 12—Thinking about the Next Chapter

Assignments (bring both to class on paper or electronically):

- (1) Choose 3-4 of the most important books or articles in your field. Write a page explaining how your work fits with these secondary sources.
- (2) Write down the working titles of the thesis and each chapter.

By Monday, January 15, at 5 p.m., email to me, your adviser, and your group at least 3 pages of your third chapter.

January 19—Drafting the Next Chapter

Assignments:

- (1) By class time, read your partner's assignment from Monday and those of the rest of your group if you have time.
- (2) By class time, email your adviser, your group, and me four more pages of your new chapter.
- (3) Be prepared to discuss the *argument* of your next chapter.

January 26—Writing Day

Come write together in the classroom.

By Monday, January 29, at 5 p.m., email to me, your adviser, and your group a complete draft of your third chapter.

February 2—Small-Group Discussion of Third Chapter

The class will meet in small groups at different times during the class period.

Assignments:

(1) If you have not already done so, identify a potential second reader (in consultation with your adviser). Arrange to meet with that person to discuss your project and ask her/him to be your second reader. By class time, email me the status of your search.

(2) Read the drafts of the other members of your group. (If you are pressed for time, spend the most time on your partner's draft, but do at least read the other chapters' introductions and get a sense of the argument and structure.) As you read, consider the following questions:

- What is the chapter's argument? (Is there one?) How persuasive is it?
- Does the narrative move steadily forward, or does it go off track?
- Are there gaps that the author needs to fill?
- What else do you find particularly effective or interesting?
- In what other ways could the author improve the chapter?



"I try to write a little bit every day."

(cartoon credit: Danny Shanahan, *New Yorker*)

February 9—Small-Group Discussion of Revisions

The class will meet in small groups at different times during the class period.

Assignment:

Select your weakest chapter, print it out, and diagnose it using the following guidelines as discussed in Booth, et. al (ch. 14):

- (1) Mark the outer frame of the chapter—introduction and conclusion. Then underline one sentence in each that states your main claim.
- (2) Mark the major sections of your chapter. Underline the main-point sentences for each section.
- (3) In the introduction, circle key thematic concepts. If you only find a few in the introduction, move to the conclusion and circle key thematic concepts there. Trace whether these concepts appear in your main-point sentences you underlined in each section.
- (4) Combine the main-point sentences you have underlined into a single paragraph.
- (5) Bring your paragraph and marked-up chapter to class.
- (6) Begin (and try to finish) revising that chapter using the comments you have received. Remember that all three revised chapters are due next week, so the more you can do this week, the better.

February 16—Revised Drafts (No Class: I will be available for appointments.)

Assignments (both due Feb. 16):

- (1) Email me, your adviser, and the members of your group:
 - the title of your thesis
 - your overall argument
 - the title and argument of each chapter
- (2) Give all three revised chapters to your adviser and your partner.

February 23—Discussion of Revised Thesis

The class will meet all together at 1:25.

Assignments:

- (1) Read your partner's thesis. Write up answers to the following questions and email them to me and your partner *by Friday, February 23, at 9 a.m.*:
 - What is the overall argument of the thesis?
 - How does each chapter advance that argument?
 - Having read the entire thesis, how persuasive do you find the argument?
 - In what ways could the author improve the thesis?
- (2) Read your own thesis. Write one page on what your thesis is arguing and why it is important. Email it to me and your adviser *by Friday, February 23, at 9 a.m.*

March 2—Introduction and Conclusion (No Class: I will be available for appointments.)

Read Booth, et. al, ch. 14 and begin to draft your introduction and conclusion.

Draft of your introduction and conclusion due to your adviser, me, and your partner by *Tuesday, March 6, at 5 p.m.* (Read chapter 16 of *The Craft of Research* if you need inspiration.)

March 9—The End is in Sight (No Class: I will be available for appointments.)

Write up comments on your partner's introduction and conclusion and email them to your partner and me by classtime.

March 16—Spring Break

March 23—The Home Stretch—Large Group Meeting

In class, we will prepare for your discussion with your orals committee.

March 30—UNC Holiday

March 26-April 3—Orals Committees

Tuesday, April 3, 6:00 p.m.: deadline for orals committee meeting

You must meet with your adviser and second reader before this deadline. You must give a complete draft to each of them one week prior to that meeting. After the meeting, email a pdf of your entire thesis to Natalie Albertson and me.

April 6—Preparation for Honors Symposium (No Class: I will be available for appointments.)

April 13—Class Reunion

Bring a poem, song, piece of prose, photograph, joke, cartoon, or thought to commemorate the experience we have shared since August.

We will also discuss the Honors Symposium.

The rest of the semester, we will have these activities rather than our regular class meeting time:

Wednesday, April 25, 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Honors Symposium for faculty, graduate students, prospective honors thesis writers, and friends.

Friday, April 27

Submit to your thesis electronically to <https://cdr.lib.unc.edu/forms/honors-thesis.form>, with signatures of your adviser and second reader on the title page, using the instructions in the pdf “Senior Honors Thesis Guidelines” on Sakai and on this website:

<http://honorscarolina.unc.edu/current-students/honors-thesis-and-undergraduate-research/honors-thesis/>

Wednesday, May 2, noon: Lunch at the Carolina Club

The History Department will host a luncheon for you and your adviser to celebrate your accomplishment.