

Guidelines for History 480 Papers

Revised 12/08

In an effort to bring some consistency to our undergraduate research seminars while coordinating them with the Department's learning outcomes, we suggest that all 480 students write a research paper that:

1. Begins with an effective introduction that states a clear thesis
2. Uses historical citations that are complete, consistent, and appropriate.
3. Builds and defends an argument (rather than simply narrating a story)
4. Supports the argument with primary sources (rather than simply using primary sources as illustrative material)
5. Contextualizes the research with relevant secondary sources
6. Discusses the interpretations found in secondary sources
7. Reaches thoughtful conclusions that explain the historical significance and contemporary relevance of the research
8. Provides an annotated bibliography
9. Has been revised at least once (but preferably several times) in consultation with the instructor and peer evaluators
10. Uses library research (rather than just assigned course materials or web sources)
11. Includes an oral presentation(s) before the class and instructor. This may be accompanied by an abstract of the paper distributed to class members.