There are two essential responsibilities for this seminar: the preparation of the article length research paper and fully engaged participation in the discussions and critiques of work submitted by other participants.

In class, we will workshop in-progress drafts and discuss craft related topics, research methods and writing strategies. Students will review and critique the works in progress submitted by their colleagues.

For the first two sessions we will discuss the proposals, focusing on methodology, conceptualization and how the proposed work engages the available historical literature. Thereafter we will move to submitting drafts of work in progress for discussion and critique.

Final versions of the paper are due the first week in May. There is a one week grace period.

A word about Incompletes. They are best avoided. Students may present a valid reason to receive such a grade but it is not recommended and after six months it turns into a failing grade.

Learning Goals: The objective of this Seminar is for students to expand and refine their skills in research and historical writing by carrying out the research project they proposed in the Fall semester. The required research paper must be a piece of original work on American history, substantially based on primary sources. It should engage a clearly defined historiographical problem, be engagingly written, effectively organized and cogently argued.

Course Schedule

Jan 29. Orientation and discussion of proposals and the main suggestions they received for their projects; course timelines

Feb 5. Discuss your research question, your sources and the present state of your progress in research and writing.

Feb 12 No class.

article; conclude with an assessment of the overall quality and persuasiveness of the essay.
Discussion of your work in the context of its historiographic setting.

Feb. 26. Submit a segment of your work for critique.
Discuss your methodology (research strategy) and any unforeseen problems that you are encountering. Critique of two submissions.

March 4. Discuss your work with primary sources – any surprises? Critique of two submissions.

March 11. Discuss possible significance of your findings in light of your research. Critique of two submissions.

March 18. Discussion of secondary sources with which you are in conversation; begin second round of submissions. Critique of two submissions.

March 25. Discussion of relevant research issues; critique of two submissions.

April 1. Meet individually; critique and review progress to date.

April 9. No Class

April 15 No class
Discussion of relevant research issues; critique of two submissions.

April 22. Discussion of relevant research issues; critique of two submissions.

April 29. Submit one to two page discussion of provisional conclusions.

May 6. Lead power point discussion of paper and submit final draft.

May 13. Lead power point discussion of paper and submit final draft.

May 13. Final revised papers.