

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY, 1945 — PRESENT

Undergraduate History Major Reading Senior Seminar: HIST 490
NJIT-Rutgers, Newark: Spring 2013
Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 - 2:25
Location: 307 Cullimore Hall

Instructor: Prof. Neil Maher
Federated Department of History NJIT-Rutgers, Newark

Office Hours: 325 Cullimore Hall
Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Thursdays, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
And by appointment

Contact: E-mail: maher@njit.edu
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Cell: 646-325-3704 (not before 9:00 a.m. or after 11:00 p.m.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The second semester of the senior research seminar will be devoted entirely to researching and writing your senior thesis. Because of this, our class time this semester will be a combination of group and individual meetings.

Early in the semester we will convene as a group to establish a common framework for the research and writing process you will be undertaking this spring. During the middle of the semester you will also begin meeting with me individually, during my office hours, about the progress you are making on your projects. These individual meetings will be *by appointment* and are required — if you miss them your grade will suffer. Finally, near the end of the semester, we will reconvene as a group to read and critique your classmates' work-in-progress.

Your thesis will be due in draft form well before the end of the semester, so that you will have time for two sets of revisions. To help with this process, drafts of your introductions will be due soon — during weeks 6-7. The first draft of your thesis is due immediately after spring break, and your second draft is due in week 13. Since revision is crucial to effective historical research and writing, students will be required not only to submit drafts but also to read, critique, and discuss each other's work in class. Your final senior thesis must be submitted online to me by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6th.

COURSE GOALS:

There are three major goals for this course.

1. Students will understand the major historical actors, events, and issues that define the environmental history of the United States during the post-World War II period.
2. Students will locate and analyze both primary and secondary source materials relevant to the history of the postwar United States for their final historical research projects.
3. Students will use those primary and secondary sources to formulate, plan, and write a full-length historical research paper.

REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and Class Participation:

Attendance at our group meetings is mandatory. We will meet as a whole class less often than last semester, but when we do we will have important tasks to accomplish. Further, when we meet, we will often be sharing work, and your fellow students will depend on your presence and participation. Any absences **MUST** be explained to me, preferably in advance. Failure to attend these classes or to adequately explain any absences will affect your grade. If absences are excessive, you will fail the course.

Your individual meetings with me are also mandatory. You will sign up for specific appointment times, throughout the semester, as indicated on the weekly schedule below.

Reading Assignments:

During the beginning of the semester, we will be revisiting *The Craft of Research* by Booth, Colomb, and Williams, in order to re-familiarize ourselves with HOW historians DO research. During this portion of the class we will also be reading the very important *Elements of Style* by William Strunk Jr., and E.B. White, which will help you think more clearly about your writing.

Throughout the middle part of the semester there are no group reading assignments, because you will be undertaking your own reading based on your research projects. This independent reading will include both primary and secondary sources.

Finally, during the last several weeks of the semester, we will all reconvene for writing and research workshops. During these class sessions you will all be expected to read drafts of the introductions of your classmates theses, as well as the first rough draft of their entire papers. For these meetings will be expected to come to class with written comments and suggestions for your classmates.

Writing Assignments: This spring semester, like its fall counterpart, will be a writing intensive course comprised of three different types of assignments. First, you will be asked to submit drafts of various parts of your thesis. Additionally, you will be asked to write reader's responses to your classmates' drafts. Finally, you will submit a final thesis between 20 and 25 pages in length (not including footnotes/endnotes).

GRADING:

In-Class Participation:	15%
Reader's Responses to Classmates' Written Material	15%
Final Research Paper	70%

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams, *The Craft of Research* (University of Chicago Press, 2008). Third Edition.

William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White, *Elements of Style* (Allyn and Bacon, 1979). Any Edition.

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (University of Chicago Press, 2007). Seventh Edition.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

RESEARCHING

WEEK 1	January 22:	The Syllabus (group meeting) <u>Required Reading:</u> None
	January 24:	Your Research Topics (group meeting) <u>Required Reading:</u> Booth, <i>Craft of Research</i> , pages 1-66. <u>Assignment:</u> See Moodle webpage

- WEEK 2** January 29: **Your Sources** (group meeting)
 Required Reading:
 Booth, *Craft of Research*, pages 68-101.

 Assignment:
 See Moodle webpage
- January 31: **Your Argument** (group meeting)
 Required Reading:
 Booth, *Craft of Research*, pages 103-127.

 Assignment:
 See Moodle webpage
- WEEK 3** February 5: **Your Evidence** (group meeting)
 Required Reading:
 Booth, *Craft of Research*, pages 130-150.

 Assignment:
 See Moodle webpage
- February 7: **What Are Warrants?** (group meeting)
 Required Reading:
 Booth, *Craft of Research*, pages 152-169.
 Assignment:
 See Moodle webpage
- WEEK 4** February 12: **Your Outline** (group meeting)
 Required Reading:
 Booth, *Craft of Research*, pages 171-179

 Assignment:
 Your outlines
- February 14: **Your Introduction** (group meeting)
 Required Reading:
 Booth, *Craft of Research*, pages 232-248.

 Assignment:
 Your introduction

WRITING

WEEK 5: February 19: **Individual Meetings**
Required Reading:
Strunk and White, *Elements of Style* (entirety)

February 21: **Individual Meetings**
Required Reading:
Strunk and White, *Elements of Style* (entirety)

WEEK 6: **Introduction Workshop I & II** (group meetings)

March 5: Required Reading:
Your classmates' draft introductions

Assignment:
Comments on your classmates' draft introductions

March 7: Required Reading:
Your classmates' draft introductions

Assignment:
Comments on your classmates' draft introductions

WEEK 7: **Introduction Workshop III & IV** (group meetings)

March 12: Required Reading:
Your classmates' draft introductions

Assignment:
Comments on your classmates' draft introductions

March 14: Required Reading:
Your classmates' draft introductions

Assignment:
Comments on your classmates' draft introductions

WEEK 8: SPRING BREAK

No class — Continue researching and writing your thesis

WEEK 9: First Draft Workshop I & II (group meetings)

March 19: Required Reading:
Classmates' first drafts

Assignments:
Comments on classmates' first drafts (2 copies to class)

March 21: Required Reading:
Classmates' first drafts

Assignments:
Comments on classmates' first drafts (2 copies to class)

WEEK 10: First Draft Workshop III & IV (group meetings)

March 26: Required Reading:
Classmates' first drafts

Assignments:
Comments on classmates' first drafts (2 copies to class)

March 28: Required Reading:
Classmates' first drafts

Assignments:
Comments on classmates' first drafts (2 copies to class)

PART III: EDITING

WEEK 11:

April 2: **How to Revise** (group meeting)

April 4: **No Class – Keep Revising**

WEEK 12:

April 9: **No Class – Keep Revising**

April 11: **No Class – Keep Revising**

WEEK 13: Second Drafts Due

April 16: **Individual Meetings**

April 18: **Individual Meetings**

WEEK 14: April 23: Individual Meetings

April 25: **Individual Meetings**

WEEK 15: Tying Up Loose Ends (group meetings)

April 30: **Footnotes & Plagiarism**

May 2: **One Final Edit**

THESIS DEADLINE: May 6 (by 5:00 p.m., NO exceptions)