

HIST 4990—Senior Seminar  
Post-1945 America  
Fall 2006: TR, (9:30-10:45)  
Professor Pratt

Office Hrs: By appointment only, LeConte Hall, 202  
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The major requirement for this course is a well-written and well-documented research paper that focuses on some aspect of U.S. history since 1945, though I will try to be as flexible as I can. The text of your paper (not counting notes and bibliography) should not be less than twenty pages. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, with proper margins and numbered pages. It must contain an annotated bibliography, which is a list of relevant primary and secondary sources in which each source has a brief description. You are to cite your references by using footnotes rather than endnotes. You must also prepare a three-page prospectus in which you state your topic, outline your thesis argument, and identify the sources you plan to use. It should be typed, double-spaced, and should be printed in the same style and format (i.e., font, margins, print quality, etc.) as your final paper. That way, I can tell you early on if your formatting is acceptable. Your prospectus—not a “copy” of it, but the same one that I return to you, with my comments written on it—is to be turned in along with your final paper. Your final paper should not be stapled; use a large paper clip instead. You should also include a cover page, with a title. Unless prior arrangements have been made, late papers will not be accepted. Papers that do not conform to the specified guidelines will not be accepted. Also, be sure to back up your work on a regular basis so as to avoid the disasters of a crashed hard drive.

No textbooks are required for this course, but I strongly suggest that you purchase copies of Strunk and White’s *Elements of Style* and the latest edition of Turabian’s *Manual of Style*.

Since this class is a research seminar, we will meet rather informally and infrequently, but I expect each of you to be in class when we do meet. Students are encouraged to meet with the professor on an individual basis as often as necessary. Your final paper will count for 70% of your grade, and your oral participation will count for the other 30%. Part of your in-class participation will be your formal **oral presentation**, during which time you will present to the class the results of your research. When you make your oral presentation, you will be limited to one 3x5 index card, and you are to *discuss* your research paper, not read from it. After your presentation, you should be prepared to answer questions raised by your classmates and the instructor.

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Class Schedule: (We will meet only on the days listed)

Aug. 17, 22	Class meets
Sept. 7	Prospectus due by 5pm (leave in my mailbox; class will <u>not</u> meet)
Sept. 12	Class meets; prospectus returned
Oct. 24	Class meets; progress report; ordering of oral presentations
Nov. 7, 9	<b>All papers are due on November 7<sup>th</sup></b> ; oral presentations begin, and continue on the 9 <sup>th</sup>
Nov. 14, 16	Presentations continue
Nov. 21	Presentations continue

The Department of History has established the following guidelines for the senior seminar paper:

1. Topics for the paper must be sufficiently broad to insure that the inquiry will be worthwhile and involve serious exposure to research-type work;
2. Each paper must involve some use of primary source material. Introduction to critical inquiry based on primary sources is a vital component of the seminar, and any departure from that approach will be the exception;
3. The final paper shall indicate evidence of a fully researched, complete narrative that stands on its own as an independent study;
4. In every way, the paper must conform to the latest edition of Turabian's *Manual of Style*. All papers are to be submitted in duplicate.
5. Finally, papers will be graded on the basis of content, style, clarity of argument, and precision of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and prose. Too many stylistic errors will adversely affect the final grade.

One final point is worth stressing. All students at the University of Georgia are expected to adhere to the university's Honor code and Academic Honesty Policy. All academic works must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty," and students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Submitting work under your name that was done by someone else, or using sources without proper attribution, is plagiarism, the punishment for which will be swift, unvarying, and severe.