

HIST 4990: Senior Seminar in History: Nuclear Culture  
Fall 2009  
Dr. Willis

Week

17 August	Trajectory of nuclear culture 1900-39
24 August	Trajectory of nuclear culture 1939 to present Philip Cantelon, Richard Hewlett, and Robert Williams, eds., <u>The American Atom</u> , first half.
31 August	Trajectory of nuclear culture 1939 to present Cantelon, et. al., <u>American Atom</u> , second half.
7 September	Paper topics; sources; library visit
14 September	Statement of topic and sources
21 September	Prospectus of senior papers; library visit
28 September	Individual meetings on prospectus
5 October	Individual meetings on prospectus
12 October	Individual meetings on prospectus
19 October	Individual meetings on research
26 October	Individual meetings on research
2 November	Individual meetings on research
9 November	Individual meetings on rough draft
16 November	Individual meetings on rough draft
23 November	Thanksgiving Break
30 November	Paper Presentations
7 December	Paper Presentations

Written assignments:

Initial paper topic/sources list (1-2 pp)	4 September
Statement of topic/sources (3 pp)	14 September
Prospectus (6-8 pp)	28 September
Rough draft (14-16 pp)	9 November
Final paper (20-25 pp)	14 December

Office hours:

124 LeConte Hall  
11-12 MWF and by appointment

Phone:

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Please note that all assignments are due on the designated date and that no late papers will be accepted. Failure to complete any assignment on time will result in a one grade penalty on the final course grade.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Each student is responsible to inform him or herself about those standards before performing any academic work.

This course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

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### Suggested Paper Topics

Dreams of atomic energy--for war and/or peace--either before or after 1945

Vision of atomic war pre-and post-1945

Literature of nuclear catastrophe

Reporting on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (eye-witness and later)

Popular attitudes towards the rise of deterrence theory

Controversy over fallout/nuclear testing

Schemes for civil defense in a nuclear age

History of the knowledge of and fear towards nuclear waste

History of the knowledge of and fear towards nuclear power

Images of science/scientists in the US/UK pre- and/or post-1945

Science reporting US/UK pre-and/or post-1945

Western attitudes towards Soviet nuclear program

Response of churchmen to atomic power

Debate over the ban-the-bomb movement and other nuclear critics

Attitudes in US/UK/Canada over Canada's nuclear "renunciation"

Controversy over "star wars" program

Visions of "nuclear winter"

Impact of the Three-Mile Island or Chernobyl accidents

#### APPENDIX D. (CONTINUED)

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. On the other hand, the topic must also be confined sufficiently to permit thorough research and careful analysis in terms of the available sources and time.
2. Each paper must involve some use of primary source material. Introduction to Critical inquiry based on primary sources is vital aspect of the seminar program, and any departure from the primary-source approach will be the exception.
3. Every student enrolled in HIST 4990 must plan to work closely with the seminar instructor on an individual basis regarding selection of the topic, progress of the research, and presentation of the paper before the fully assembled seminar group at the end of the quarter.
4. The final paper shall indicate evidence of a fully researched, complete narrative and/or analysis that stands on its own as an independent study. Normally, the paper length will be in the range of twenty pages in double-spaced typing with standard margins. It must also include an evaluation of sources for the background and actual preparation of the paper. This will be in the form of a bibliographical essay or an annotated list of the relevant primary and secondary sources.
5. Style and bibliography must conform to the latest edition of Turabian's Manual of Style. All papers will be submitted in duplicate, one copy of which will be retained in the permanent files of the Department.
6. Papers done for another course, including the junior seminar, will not be accepted as the senior paper.

The History Department wishes to encourage history majors who are also Honors students to write undergraduate theses. Students eligible for such theses must enroll for HIST 4990H.

