

HIS 601 Research Seminar

Advanced Research Methods for Historians

Monday - 3:30-6:20pm SBS. S-309

Professor Nancy Tomes

This seminar provides graduate students with advanced training in the methods of historical research and writing. Our main goal is for each participant to produce a 25-30 page paper (including footnotes) that might be published as a journal article as well as form the basis for a dissertation chapter. Course readings and discussion are designed to achieve that goal. Although sources and arguments must be historical, graduate students outside the History Department are very welcome.

As part of our discussion, we will reflect on what makes historical work distinctive from other disciplines. Questions to be considered include: what are the possibilities and limitations inherent in any historical archive? What constitutes a historical source? What were the social, cultural, political and intellectual contexts of its production? Why was an image or text produced and who viewed/read it? What were its modes of circulation? Who did it privilege and who exclude? How could different groups or communities of meaning-makers alter its use and importance?

Besides writing several drafts of their papers, students will be asked to discuss examples of their primary sources in class and to provide constructive feedback on their fellow student's work. **Enrollment in HIS PhD program or Permission of Instructor.**

