Fall 2005
Tues 2-4pm, with tutorials Tues 2-4pm and 4-6pm

History 98
Junior honors tutorial in History
Seminar A: History of Harvard

course website: www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~hist98a

Instructors
Prof. Ann Blair
Dept of History, CGIS South #437
(one of the pair of orange buildings, at 1730 Cambridge St)
email: amblair@fas; phone 5-0752
office hours: W 2-4 in CGIS S437

Tutors: Amy Houston (also Head TF for the whole course)
office hours: T 4-6, Robinson L-18 (phone 6-6019); ahouston@fas

Kristin Poling
office hours: Th 3-5, Robinson L-18 (phone 6-6019); kpoling@fas

Course format and policies

Students will meet in (rough) alternation as a full seminar Tues 2-4pm (in odd-numbered weeks), in Robinson Lower Library, and in smaller groups by tutorial Tues 2-4pm and 4-6pm (Amy's tutorial in Robinson Lower Library and Kristin's tutorials in Robinson 205). Both the seminars and the tutorials form an integral part of the course and may not be missed except for a medical or family emergency (notify the relevant instructors by e-mail as soon as you can and provide documentation from UHS or your Senior Tutor). In case of an excused absence your instructor will likely ask you for some additional written work to make sure that you have mastered the missed material. Students with unexcused absences will be failed from the course.

This course is designed to guide students through the stages building up to a major research paper. Every assignment has been carefully scheduled and no late work will be accepted. This is a zero-tolerance policy! Please plan accordingly around your other obligations--e.g. by completing assignments early if necessary (this is always fine!).

Students requiring special accommodations must make this known to the professor, head tutor and tutor, with supporting documentation, at the beginning of the semester.

Requirements

active and informed participation at all seminars and tutorials: 20%
bibliographical project (Week IV): 5%
research proposal (Week VI): 10%
oral source evaluation (Week VIII): 5%
oral presentation (Weeks X-XII): 20%
Available for purchase

All book purchases are at your discretion. The books for this course have been ordered at the Coop, but are also available at the Harvard Bookstore and through a number of on-line book order services. All books are also on reserve in Hilles and Lamont Libraries.

David H. Fischer, Historians' Fallacies (Harper, 1970)
[Thomas Mann, The Oxford Guide to Library Research (Oxford University Press, 1998)--available only from mid-November; useful as a reference book for this and other library research]

A coursepack for this seminar is available from Gnomon Copy (1304 Mass Ave) for $20. But the coursepack is also on reserve at Lamont and Hilles and in the History Department Library and all the readings in it are included in the coursepacks used for Hist 98 in previous years, so a purchase can be avoided.

Syllabus

Sept 19, 2-3pm course introduction (all seminars)
Emerson 105

Week I--seminar (Sept 20): kinds of primary sources I
*this session will start in Harvard University Archives, 2-3pm--meet at the Archives, located in Pusey Library, accessed through Lamont*
3-4pm: discussion of the history of universities in general and of Harvard in particular (in Robinson Hall), about what makes a good research topic
COME TO CLASS WITH SOME INITIAL THOUGHTS ABOUT A RESEARCH TOPIC
Reading:

browse the Directory of Archives and Manuscript Depositories at Harvard on e-resources

browse the "About Harvard" link from the Harvard homepage
Samuel Eliot Morison, Three Centuries of Harvard, pp. 3-37
Morton and Phyllis Keller, Making Harvard Modern, from the beginning to p. 169

Week II--seminar (Sept 27): Finding a topic and asking a historical question
*this session will start with a tour of library resources by Barbara Burg, 2-3pm, meet in the Larsen Room, Lamont Library*
*if a few students could bring along a wireless-enabled laptop this would allow for one computer per person--many thanks*
3-4pm: discussion of the assigned reading (in Robinson Hall)
PLEASE MEET WITH YOUR TUTOR ONE-ON-ONE THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS YOUR
CHOICE OF PAPER TOPIC: please bring with you to this meeting a one-paragraph description of each of at least 2 possible topics.

Reading: The Craft of Research, prologue, chs. 1, 3-4
   Historians' Fallacies, front matter + ch. 1
   read a total of 200pp from Morison, Three Centuries of Harvard or Keller and Keller, Making Harvard Modern that are of most interest to you

Week III--seminar (Oct 4): kinds of primary sources II
*session to be held in Houghton Library--meet in Houghton Library lobby, after depositing everything except paper and pencil in a locker there*
BE READY TO DISCUSS YOUR IDEAS FOR PAPER TOPICS BRIEFLY TO THE GROUP
Reading: Craft of Research, chs. 5-6; Fallacies, ch. 4
   finish either Morison or Keller and Keller, depending on your interests

Week IV--tutorial (Oct 11): collecting and evaluating secondary and tertiary sources
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL PROJECT DUE: include 4-6 primary sources of different types (describe the types involved) and the results of a thorough search for secondary sources. Describe the resources you used to identify these primary and secondary sources; note any difficulties you encountered. Bring copies of your bibliographical work for distribution to your TF and tutorial group.
2-3pm discussion of the process and results of the bibliographical research and of methodological readings
3-4pm discussion of Harvard history, drawing on each student's reading on the topic
Reading: Philip Curtin, from The Atlantic Slave Trade; Robert Darnton, "Journalism: All the News that Fits We Print," and Davidson and Lytle, "Instant Watergate," in coursepack
   read another 300pp of Morison or Keller and Keller (whichever you haven't finished yet)

Week V--seminar (Oct 18): Harvard history
*This session will feature the visit of John B. Fox, currently Senior Advisor to the Dean at Harvard and at work on a history of the Harvard faculty; formerly Secretary of the Faculty, and Dean of the College 1976-85 among other positions at Harvard*
BE READY FOR SOME KIND OF QUIZ ON HARVARD HISTORY AND TO DESCRIBE YOUR TOPIC IDEAS
Reading: an assignment from John Fox's work in progress, to be distributed at the previous session
   select 2-3 examples of analysis in Morison and/or Keller and Keller that struck you as particularly effective or ineffective

Week VI--tutorial (Oct 25): research proposals
RESEARCH PROPOSALS TO BE PRE-CIRCULATED TO THE TUTORIAL 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE (i.e. by Monday 2pm--please make your own copies and use the box in front of the your tutor's office for drop-off and pick-up)
You should by now have formulated a topic for your research paper, transformed it into a historical problem and generated some research questions. The research proposal (ca. 5pp) should include: 1. a
written statement of your problem and research questions; 2. an annotated bibliography containing
the principal primary sources you plan to work with and a list of the secondary literature
immediately relevant to your research paper; 3. additionally, verify three references in one of the
items in your secondary bibliography and briefly present the results.
In class: discussion of proposals
Reading:  Craft of research, chs. 7-10
the proposals of the other members of the tutorial

Week VII--seminar (Nov 1): formulating and articulating arguments
PRE-CIRCULATE 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE TWO DIFFERENT ARGUMENTS ABOUT YOUR TOPIC [note: this
will require making more copies than usual, for the entire seminar]: present in 2pp apiece each of
two different arguments, as if you were writing for each the corresponding introduction and
conclusion of a paper making that argument. Prepare an oral response to the arguments circulated by
the other students, sorting them into types of arguments and making constructive suggestions about
how to avoid fallacies and other pitfalls.
Reading:  Fallacies, ch. 6
West, "Animals" and Fisher, from The Logic of Real Arguments (in coursepack)
handouts distributed in tutorial
material pre-circulated by the other members of the seminar

Week VIII--tutorial (Nov 8): close reading of sources
ORAL SOURCE ANALYSIS TO BE PRE-CIRCULATED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE: prepare a
xeroxed packet containing selections from at least three different types of primary sources. Prepare a
10-minute oral report analyzing the value and limitations of each set of sources for answering the
types of questions being asked in each research project.
Reading:  Craft of Research, ch. 11-13
source packets prepared by the other members of the tutorial

Week IX--tutorial (Nov 15): preparing an outline
PRE-CIRCULATE A THESIS STATEMENT, AN INTRODUCTION (1 page) AND 2-3pp
OUTLINE OF YOUR PAPER (24 hours in advance)
Reading:  Craft of Research, ch. 14-16
materials pre-circulated by the other members of the tutorial

Week X--seminar (Nov 22): student presentations
In this and the following week each student will give a 10-minute presentation of their research
paper (typically presenting the project as a whole and a source or segment of research in more
detail). The presentation will be followed by 10 minutes of general discussion. All presentations will
be videotaped. Students will meet with their tutors for coaching and a dry run before their
presentations and again after their presentations to discuss the videotape and the preparation of their
research papers.

Week XI--seminar (Nov 29): student presentations

Week XII--seminar (Dec 6): student presentations
During this week students will also be asked to attend at least one session of the senior thesis writers' conference (exact schedule TBA, Dec 5-9) for insight into the art of oral presentation and what lies ahead for next year.

**Week XIII—tutorial (Dec 13): working toward a draft**
PRE-CIRCULATE a draft section of your paper (5-10pp) at least 24 hours ahead of the tutorial. **Reading:** read the drafts pre-circulated by the other members of tutorial

Drafts of final papers due Tues Dec 20, 2pm, at the tutorial office

**FINAL PAPERS (20pp) due Friday January 13, 2pm, at the tutorial office.**
HISTORY OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY
SAMPLE TOPICS FOR RESEARCH

How Harvard changed across the centuries
Early Harvard--a university, seminary, or glorified high school?
Crucial catalysts for and moments of change at Harvard

Harvard in the world
Harvard and McCarthyism
Harvard's relations with the city of Cambridge
Harvard and the state of Massachusetts: when Harvard was a "state college"
Harvardians and the Paris Peace Conference, 1919
Harvard historians and the CIA
Harvard and the Marshall Plan
Harvard in the Vietnam era
Harvard and the Jewish diapora from Nazi Germany

Harvard institutions
The Radcliffe-Harvard relationship
Harvard University Press and Harvard publications
The history of the Harvard Governing Boards (Corporation and Board of Overseers)
The Harvard endowment and its growth
The role of specific donors
The history of houses at Harvard, of a particular house or dormitory
The history of a Harvard administration/ presidency
The infrastructure of Harvard: a study of Harvard employees, their working conditions and unionization in any number of areas: dining hall, building and grounds, clerical, custodial etc.

Harvard academics
The history of a Harvard department, discipline or program (be aware that documents less than 50 years old will often requiring obtaining permission to consult)
Rise and fall of a department that no longer exists, e.g. geography department
Science at Harvard, e.g. reception of Darwin
Educational theory and the Harvard curriculum: before and after the Eliot presidency
Educational practice: what actually went on in the classroom (e.g. using notes left by professors and students)
Medical education at Harvard (using Countway Library)
Education in Law, Business and other schools (using their respective libraries and archives)
The history of a "center" at Harvard (e.g. Russian Research Center, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Center for International Affairs, Humanities Center, Fairbank Center, Reischauer Center, Kennedy Center, Center for European Studies, Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Bunting Institute...)
The impact of Harvard's curriculum on other universities; the impact of other institutions on Harvard

The campus
The history of a Harvard building
Architectural styles at Harvard and their message
Sculpture around the Harvard campus
Paintings and other art in Harvard buildings
Museums at Harvard

**The student body**
The history of Harvard admissions--who got in and who didn't
African-Americans at Harvard
Native Americans at Harvard (in colonial period and beyond)
Jewish students at Harvard
Latino/latina students at Harvard
Asian students at Harvard
Women at Harvard

**Student life**
The history of a Harvard student society (musical, dramatic, literary, atheletic, social).
Student journalism at Harvard; student publications
Harvard clubs and fraternities
Harvard students and public service; the idea of public service at Harvard
The history of religious worship at Harvard
The presence and impact of women at Harvard in different periods

**Harvard ceremonial**
Sources and significance of Harvard ceremonial
Bicentennial, Tercentennial, 350th anniversaries
History of graduation ceremony, speakers

**Individuals at Harvard**
The Harvard career of a famous person, e.g. Teddy or Franklin Roosevelt
The career of a Harvard/Radcliffe student, professor, administrator or other employee
The history of a Harvard class

**Representations of Harvard**
The name "Harvard": places named after it; licensing of the name.
Novels, murder mysteries set at Harvard
Harvard on television, in films
Harvard propaganda: guidebooks, guided tours, souvenirs, videos, websites etc through the ages
Harvard as a tourist destination: its description in guidebooks