

IS123: Academic Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Spring 2020
Monday: 9:00 – 12:15

Dr. Ulrike Wagner

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Office hours in P98A U.05: Wednesday: 11 – 12:30 and by appointment

Seminar Location: P98A-U-Seminar Room 4

Course Description

This seminar offers training in the methods of academic research and a workshop for drafts. Focusing on representative contemporary research in the humanities and the social sciences, it supports students in proceeding with their own individual research projects by focusing on the essential elements of independent scholarly work: the choice of a topic or object of study; the outline of the main components of an article or scholarly paper; finding, gathering, collating and interpreting the sources needed for the project; correct citation, attribution, and bibliographical documentation, and lastly, the effective presentation of the final work in structure and style, as well as peer review and constructive feedback. Including the participation of thesis supervisors and other faculty members, this course focuses on individual presentations in the latter half of the semester.

Annotated Bibliography

Upload a short ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (AB) (minimum: two sources) on Google Team Drive before each “Research Material Presentation” class session. The annotated bibliography is in part a working journal of your research, showing what you have accomplished. Materials should be organized alphabetically under two headings, “Secondary Sources” and “Primary Sources,” with a bibliographic entry for each. The annotation itself (again, for each entry) should be a short paragraph in which you indicate what you have gleaned from the reading and how you see it as relevant to your project (you will be provided a model so you can see what it should look like).

Research Material Presentation

You will present on a common question, theme, or text that you think will play a role in your thesis. A text and reading questions must be chosen for circulation on **Thursday before your presentation**, and you will lead a discussion on the chosen text(s).

Draft Presentation

You will need to circulate an **8-10-page piece of writing** to your section (and to your advisor). This writing selection must be circulated on the **Thursday before your presentation** so that people have time to read it. If it is circulated late, the whole presentation will be graded down one grade per day; so make sure to circulate those writing selections on time. On the day of your presentation, you should be prepared to speak about how the writing selection fits into the larger project, what your concerns are, and what you're planning to do next. This presentation shouldn't be a recap of the writing sample, as everyone will have already read it. A PowerPoint presentation is often helpful, but it's not explicitly required. For the remaining time, we will discuss both your presentation and the writing sample. The **"respondent"** should be well prepared with questions and should get the discussion going (or keep it going). Moreover, it is the respondent's job to take notes during the **discussion and provide the presenter with a written summary of the colloquium participants' suggestions** for moving forward with the project. Your thesis advisor will attend your presentation and might have some contributions to make or might be helpful in "filtering" the discussion and figuring how ideas from it could be beneficial for the project.

Submission of Drafts

All drafts and class readings must be submitted via Google Team Drive and be emailed to all course members.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all seminars. Please note the following regulations: You will be allowed no more than **one absence** during the semester. Repeated lateness also counts as an absence. Each additional absence will lower your final grade by half a point (i.e. if your final grade is a B, and you have missed two classes and/or been late repeatedly you will be downgraded to a B-). In case you have any medical issues or other concerns that could impact your compliance with the regulations above, please make sure to inform your instructor during the first week of the semester.

Grade Breakdown

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|--------------------------------|-----|
| Attendance and Participation | 40% |
| Annotated Bibliography | 20% |
| Research Material Presentation | 20% |
| Draft Presentation | 20% |

Required Texts

Readings are available on **Google Shared Drive** for the course. Student-initiated readings for the group presentations and individual presentations will be uploaded to Google Team Drive and/or emailed.

Course Schedule

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| Week 1: January 27 | Introduction and Getting Started on Your Project |
| Week 2: February 3 | Selections from Graff and Birkenstein, <i>They Say / I Say</i> (2010) |
| Friday, February 7 | <i>1-paragraph Project Description due on Team Drive</i> |
| Week 3: February 10 | StaBi Visit: Meeting in the StaBi West, near Potsdamer Platz Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Potsdamer Str. 33, 10785 Berlin At 09:45 SHARP!! |
| Week 4: February 17 | Writing & Research |
| Week 5: February 24 | Research Material Presentations & Annotated Bibliography |
| Week 6: March 2 | Research Material Presentations & Annotated Bibliography |
| Week 7: March 9 | Research Material Presentations & Annotated Bibliography |
| Week 8: March 16 | Research Material Presentations & Annotated Bibliography |
| Week 9: March 23 | Research Material Presentations & Annotated Bibliography |
| Week 10: March 30 | Draft Presentations |

SPRING BREAK

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|-------------------|---|
| Week 12: April 20 | 9 – 12: CV & Cover Letter Workshop |
| Week 13: April 27 | Draft Presentations |
| Week 14: May 4 | Draft Presentations |

Declaration of your thesis title in week 13 of the Spring semester on **Thursday, April 30, 2020** at **3pm**. You need to complete the declaration of BA Thesis Title form. The form can be picked up from the shelf on the wall outside the Registrar's Office in the basement of P24. You must obtain the signatures of your supervisor and chosen second reader, before submitting the form to the Registrar's office by the deadline above.

Submission of the final thesis in week 10 of the Fall semester, i.e. on **Friday, November 13, 2020** at 3pm. Guidelines for submission will be made available to you over the course of the research seminar this semester.

10-Page thesis excerpt due to advisors by **Friday, May 15, 2020**.