

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TERM PAPERS
HISTORY 3480
EUROPE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Length: 15-18 pages—typed and double-spaced.

You need to select a topic that is both manageable in size, and for which you can find adequate primary and secondary source material. First consider a period or topic that interests you, and formulate a question that you want to explore. After turning in a proposed topic, each student needs to make an appointment to see me for at least 15 minutes to talk about possible topics and sources. There will be a sign up sheet on my office door—Social Science 213. Please make these appointment as quickly as possible.

Make a survey of the sources available if you cannot get adequate information in a language you can read, you will have to change your topic. It is better to find this out sooner rather than later. Make a preliminary bibliography, and begin doing your background reading. You will have a better idea about how to do this after your library tour. At this point a research librarian can be very helpful to you. Don't be afraid to ask for help. The internet is also often very helpful, but remember not all sites are reliable. Try to use those linked to reputable institutions and archives. Also be warned internet sources alone are not sufficient for a research paper

As you read make notes and annotate your bibliography. Be sure to take down a complete bibliographic citation as you make notes. It will save you a great deal of trouble later on. As you take notes, paraphrase and summarize important points. If you find a particularly apt quotation that you may want to use later copy it carefully and accurately.

When you have done some reading and compiled a list of other sources, you need to formulate a thesis. This is a single sentence which gives a preliminary answer to your research question. It is not unusual as you continue to do research and uncover evidence to change or amend the thesis, but having one at this stage helps you to focus your research and direct your writing.

Before you begin writing, organize your notes and create an outline. It is much easier to cut and adjust the outline than a completed paper. At this point, you may want to come to see me again, if you feel you need some help in this area.

Finally, you may begin writing. A number of books may be helpful to you in organizing your project and putting your paper into correct form:

Strunk and White's *Elements of Style*

Mary Lynn Rampolla's *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*

William Kelleher Storey's *Writing History: A Guide for Students*

Anthony Brundage's *Going to the Sources*

These and other books are available in a variety of editions.

PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS!