

History 436  
Section 801  
W 3:30-6:00pm

Dr. Dennis  
Spring 1995  
Cudahy 204

## **Topics in Modern European History:**

### **The Art and Practice of Historical Writing**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is designed for graduate students completing a major or minor field in Modern European History. The objective of the course is to give participants practical experience in preparing various forms of professional writing: book reviews, review essays, dissertation proposals, fellowship proposals and grant proposals. After considering models of each genre, participants will formulate their own, submit them to the seminar and undertake common constructive criticism.

**PROCEDURES:** This practicum will consist of weekly meetings. In preparation for writing assignments we will first select and consider models of each format. For these sessions, all participants are asked to supply copies of recent book reviews and review essays from appropriate professional journals to serve as the basis for discussion. (The instructor will supply models and forms for dissertation, fellowship and grant proposals). Thereafter, participants will produce their own compositions, preferably on subjects related to major or minor field preparations in the Modern European area. Topics should be determined in consultation with the instructor in the intervening week. In the following session, we will collectively criticize our efforts. Each essay will be considered in detail by an individual reviewer; thereafter all are expected to comment on the work.

**DEADLINES:** All models and written assignments must be deposited in the History Department Office by 5:00 on the Monday before our sessions. Please supply one copy for the instructor, one for the individual reviewer and at least one for other members of the seminar. All participants are expected to read these materials by the time of our seminar meetings.

**RECOMMENDED READING:** The following books, available at Beck's Bookstore, are useful guides to writing for publication.

*The Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th ed.

Jacques Barzun & Henry F. Graff, *The Modern Researcher*, 5th ed.

**GRADES:** Grades will be determined according to the following scheme. Attendance and participation will also be considered in setting the final grade.

**Book Review**

**25%**

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Review Essay</b>              | <b>25%</b> |
| <b>Dissertation Proposal</b>     | <b>25%</b> |
| <b>Fellowship/Grant Proposal</b> | <b>25%</b> |

## **MEETING SCHEDULE:**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>WEEK 1 (1/19)</b>  | <b>Introduction to the Course</b>             |
| <b>WEEK 2 (1/26)</b>  | <b>Writing Book Reviews</b>                   |
| <b>WEEK 3 (2/2)</b>   | <b>Individual consultations</b>               |
| <b>WEEK 4 (2/9)</b>   | <b>Critique of Book Reviews</b>               |
| <b>WEEK 5 (2/16)</b>  | <b>Writing Review Essays</b>                  |
| <b>WEEK 6 (2/23)</b>  | <b>Individual consultations</b>               |
| <b>WEEK 7 (3/2)</b>   | <b>Critique of Review Essays</b>              |
| <b>WEEK 8 (3/9)</b>   | <b>No Meeting: Semester Break</b>             |
| <b>WEEK 9 (3/16)</b>  | <b>Writing Dissertation Proposals</b>         |
| <b>WEEK 10 (3/23)</b> | <b>Individual consultations</b>               |
| <b>WEEK 11 (3/30)</b> | <b>Critique of Dissertation Proposals</b>     |
| <b>WEEK 12 (4/6)</b>  | <b>Writing Fellowship and Grant Proposals</b> |
| <b>WEEK 13 (4/13)</b> | <b>Individual consultations</b>               |
| <b>WEEK 14 (4/20)</b> | <b>Critique of Fellowship Proposals</b>       |
| <b>WEEK 15 (4/27)</b> | <b>Critique of Grant Proposals</b>            |