The ultimate purpose of this seminar is, of course, to produce a 30-page research paper based upon primary sources. Students are encouraged to use this opportunity to write an article of publishable quality, and also (as relevant) to explore potential dissertation topics. However, in order to lend the course a certain amount of structure, we will complete a number of exercises early in the semester designed to familiarize students with the process of primary source research, whether in archives or in published document editions.

The theme of our course is “international” history – that is, historical subjects that do not fit squarely into the framework of national histories. Students are invited to consider writing on such little-studied organizations as the League of Nations or the United Nations; or to dip into the even less familiar world of NGOs or IGOs. International “problem-solving” is another possibility – ranging from diplomatic or military crises to environmental, scientific, or criminal challenges.

In the early weeks of the semester we will discuss the problem of crafting “decentered” narratives; we will also complete exercises on the use of finding aids and on-line databases. Later in the semester we critique one another’s drafts.

Grades will be apportioned as follows:

20% – class participation
10% – research prospectus (due Feb. 13)
30% – draft (due April 16)
40% – final paper (due April 28)

Course Policies

As in any graduate course, regular attendance and participation is expected as a matter of course. Students are allowed one pre-arranged absence for the semester. In case of illness, please contact me as soon as you become aware of your condition.

Students are responsible for seeking regular consultation. I expect to see each of you at least once per month in January, February, March, and April. My office hours in UNIV 328 will run on Mondays & Wednesdays from 9:30 –11:00, and I will also set up a late afternoon meeting time in consultation with the class. My office phone number is (765) 494-4160, but it’s usually easiest to catch me via e-mail at <wggray@purdue.edu>.
Course Schedule

Jan. 9       General survey of research methods
Jan. 16      Discussion of Trachtenberg, 1-139 and 199-216
              Articles on diplomacy and transparency
Jan. 23      Appointment with Bert Chapman
              (meet at 3:00 pm in HSSE, 3rd floor conf room)
              Discussion of Trachtenberg, 140-182 and 217-255
Jan. 30      Articles on international scientific and technical cooperation
Feb. 6       Articles on international social and cultural movements
              Primary source exercises
Feb. 13      Research prospectus presentations
              Discussion of Trachtenberg, 183-218
Feb. 20      (If needed, further discussion of research prospecti)
Mar. 19      “Touching base” session
Apr. 7       Early draft deadline
Apr. 9       Discussion of drafts I (for those who have submitted early)
Apr. 14      Draft deadline
Apr. 16      Discussion of drafts II
Apr. 23      (If desired, further discussion of writing issues)
Apr. 28      Papers due
Articles on Diplomacy and Transparency


Articles on International Scientific and Technical Cooperation


Articles on International Social and Cultural Movements

