

## AS.100.294: UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR IN HISTORY

François Furstenberg and Chloe Hawkey  
[f.furstenberg@jhu.edu](mailto:f.furstenberg@jhu.edu); [chawkey1@jhu.edu](mailto:chawkey1@jhu.edu)  
Spring 2021: MW, 1:30-2:45  
Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/my/f.furstenberg>

### Description

This is the second semester of our year-long sequence. This semester we will focus almost entirely on the research and writing process. Our course will become a workshop in which we share work and solicit and offer feedback from our peers.

This semester requires an unusual amount of self-directed work for an undergraduate course. Although we have imposed deadlines for writing to make sure you are moving along, there is still enough leeway here to cause potential trouble for those who tend to procrastinate. We strongly encourage you to set aside fixed times per week to conduct your research. It can be too easy to let other, more urgent priorities interfere with the work for this class. Having, say, one day per week or two half-days per week dedicated to your research and writing for this paper is a very good way to proceed, although everyone develops their own strategies.

Given the unusual nature of our zoom-centric, socially-distanced learning environment, I have scheduled more frequent sessions that would be usual for this course. These will take the form of informal conversations with guests about the practice of research and writing, about how they got interested in their topics, how their careers have evolved, etc. No preparation is expected by either students or guests, although active engagement and curiosity is expected. In addition, Chloe and François are available for individual meetings anytime. If you feel yourself flailing, we strongly encourage you to meet with one of us sooner rather than later.

Your writing will be graded for the quality of your argument; the depth of your research and your ability to mobilize it in support of argument; the power of your historiographical intervention; and the elegance of your writing. We encourage you to submit as many drafts as you can. The more you write and draft and revise the better your writing will be. Please also consult the writing center for help.

Your class participation grade will be determined by attendance; by demonstrating a careful and engaged reading of the drafts of your peers; by the quality of your constructive, meaningful comments and feedback on peers' writing during in-class writing workshops; and by the quality of your comments and questions with guests. Any unexcused absence will automatically reduce your participation grade.

### Assignments and Grading

*Class participation (40% of the final grade)*

*Historiographical position: due February 15 (5% of final grade)*

*Ten pages: due March 8 (5% of final grade)*

*Rough draft: due April 5 (10% of final grade)*

*Final paper: due May 3 (40% of final grade).*

## SYLLABUS

- M January 25**      **Meeting 1**  
Debrief and Destress. What I did during my winter break.
- W January 27**      **Meeting 2**  
Strategize for the semester. Progress reports, status updates, action plans.
- M February 1**      **Guest 1**  
Michael P. Johnson, Johns Hopkins.
- W February 3**      **No Meeting**  
Work on your paper.
- M February 8**      **Guest 2**  
Amarilys Estrella, Johns Hopkins.
- W February 10**      **No Meeting**  
Work on your paper.
- M February 15**      **Meeting 3**  
Submit historiographical position paper: maximum of 2,000 words.
- W February 17**      **Meeting 4**  
Discussion of historiographical position papers.
- M February 22**      **No Meeting**  
Work on your paper.
- W February 24**      **Guest 3**  
Tamer El-Leithy, Johns Hopkins.
- M March 1**      **No Meeting**  
Work on your paper.

- W March 3**      **Guest 4**  
Céline Carayon, Salisbury University.
- M March 8**      **Meeting 5**  
Sasha Turner, Johns Hopkins.  
Submit ten pages of writing.
- W March 10**     **Meeting 6**  
Discussion of ten pages of writing.
- M March 15**     **Meeting 7**  
Discussion of ten pages of writing.
- W March 17**     **Guest 5**  
Martha Jones, Johns Hopkins.
- M March 22**     **Spring Break**  
Daytona Beach?
- W March 24**     **Guest 6**  
Pawel Maciejko, Johns Hopkins.
- M March 29**     **No Meeting**  
Work on your paper.
- W March 31**     **Guest 7**  
Lawrence Jackson, Johns Hopkins.
- M April 5**      **Meeting 8**  
Rough draft due.
- W April 7**      **Meeting 9**  
Discussion of rough drafts.

- M April 12**      **Meeting 10**  
Discussion of rough drafts.
- W April 14**      **Spring Break**  
Park City?
- M April 19**      **Guest 8**  
Carolyn Eastman, Virginia Commonwealth University.
- W April 21**      **Meeting 11**  
Two weeks until final submission. Where do we stand?
- M April 26**      **Guest 9**  
Jean Hébrard, Johns Hopkins.
- W April 28**      **Meeting 12**  
One week until final submission. Where do we stand?
- W May 5**      **Final Papers Due**  
You are now officially historians. Congratulations!