

HIST 585-005: Special Topics in History:

(cross-listed with ENG 789-03P/CPLT 751-00P/PHIL 789-00P)

Topic: Rsch.& Interdisc.Scholarship (OPUS title)

Research Design and Interdisciplinary Scholarship (complete course title)

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Goodstein	TH	9:30 am – 12:30 pm	12

Semester Description:

Are you planning or hoping to write an interdisciplinary dissertation? This course is designed to help you think creatively, concretely, and systematically about the theoretical and practical aspects of turning your ideas into a manageable, focused project.

Rather than asking what interdisciplinarity “is” or should be, we will take up particular cases of pathbreaking interdisciplinarity scholarship. Students will develop their own projects in dialogue with these exempla and with one another, learning to reflect on how the assumptions and expectations they bring to the table that both limit and enable their work. By fostering conversation across disciplinary boundaries, this course will help you refine your ideas, incorporate new perspectives, and think more flexibly about the ends of scholarship.

By the end of the semester, you will have 1) become acquainted with a variety of innovative approaches to interdisciplinary scholarship; 2) clarified your own research goals and explored possible research strategies; and 3) developed and presented a draft project proposal and research plan. You will also gain experience as an editor and critic by responding to the work of your fellow students.

Both seminar and workshop, this course is open to graduate students in the humanities and social sciences or elsewhere whose orientation is primarily analytic, critical, or interpretive.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

1. Aristotle, Rhetoric
2. Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of its Technological Reproducibility”
3. Berger and Luckmann, The Social Construction of Reality; Booth et al, Craft of Research
4. Fleck, Genesis and Development of a Scientific Fact
5. Foucault, “What is an Author?”; Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents
6. Kuhn, Structure of Scientific Revolutions
7. Thompson, “Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism”

8. Geertz, "Thick Description"
9. Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis"
10. Sedgwick, "Epistemology of the Closet"
11. Simmel, "Metropolises and Mental Life", "The Stranger"
12. Weber, "Science as Vocation"
13. Williams, "Base and Superstructure in Marxist Cultural Theory"