BA4/PY Research Seminar

Seminar Leader: James Harker
Times:  Tuesday 11:15-12:45  
Friday 16:00-17:30
Email: j.harker@berlin.bard.edu

Course Description
This seminar will serve as a thesis-writing workshop. In the first part of the course, sessions will be devoted to the practicalities of planning a project, conducting research, outlining, and writing. During this portion, we will also hear from faculty members about how they develop large research projects. In the second part of the course, each student will have the opportunity to present an early version of his or her thesis, with the goal of supportive feedback.

Reading List
We will read each other’s work, in addition to a few critical sources, which will be distributed in class.

Requirements
Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. Because this seminar is devoted to offering helpful feedback during the early stages of the research process, active participation is of central importance. Before Fall Break, students will participate in a series of workshops focused on writing and research skills. After the break, students will present their research question in the form of a two-page statement, which we will discuss as a group. In the final third of the semester, students will prepare a 10 page portion of the thesis to be circulated to seminar participants in advance of their presentation day. Presentation days will consist of a 15-20 minute presentation followed by discussion.

Evaluation
Research question: 20%
Presentation: 40%
Participation: 40%
Schedule

Writing and Research Skills

Week 1
Tues 3.9 Introduction
Fri 6.9 Bring in an “Object”

Week 2
Tues 10.9 How to frame a research question
(Introduction and Chapter 1 of They Say, I Say)
Fri 13.9 In Class Essay

Week 3
Tues 17.9 IWT Workshop with Deirdre D’Albertis
Fri 20.9 Working with secondary sources
(Chapter 4 of They Say, I Say)

Week 4
Tues 24.9 Faculty panel
Fri 27.9 Application Workshop

Week 5
Tues 1.10 Research Question: Amitai, Aurelia, Oumaima
Fri 4.10 Research Question: Linda, Adam, Jelena

Fall Break

Week-6
Tues 15.10 Research question: Mathujitha, April, Chatlin
Fri 18.10 Research question: Catalin, Mea, Dima

Week 7
Tues 22.10 Research question: Vera, Elyse, Graham
Fri 25.10 Amitai Halberstam (Tracy Colony)

Week 8
Tues 29.10 Aurelia Cojocaru (James Harker)
Fri 1.11 Oumaima Gannouni (Geoff Lehman)

Week 9
Tues 5.11 Linda Eggert (Joel Rosenthal/Catherine Toal)
Fri 8.11 Adam Mandel-Senft (Dörte Ohlhorst)

Week 10
Tues 12.11 Jelena Barac (Kerry Bystrom)
Week 11

Fri 15.11  Mathujitha Sankaran (Tracy Colony)

Tues 19.11  April Matias (Catherine Toal)
Fri 22.11  Chatlin Helm (Geoff Lehman)

Week 12

Tues 26.11  Catalin Moise (Matthias Hurst)
Fri 29.11  Mea Hoffman (Aya Soika)

Week 13

Tues 3.12  Dima Tsapkou (Katalin Makkai)
Fri 6.12  Vera Plümer (Michael Weinman)

Week 14

Tues 10.12  Elyse Charles (Kerry Bystrom)
Fri 13.12  Graham Trim (David Hayes)

Week 15

Completion Week

10-page samples of your thesis are due to Advisors on Monday, 16.12.