

Assignment V: Research Prospectus (20%)

HIST 1200/1201: History and Trump

Draft Prospectus Due Friday, December 1, by 5:00PM (10%)

Final Prospectus Due Sunday, December 10, by 5:00PM (10%)

A research prospectus summarizes preliminary research on a historical topic and question, offers an overview of existing scholarship related to the topic, and proposes a tentative plan for completing the project. The purpose of this assignment is to get students familiar and comfortable with the process of preparing to write a research paper of 10,000 words (about 30 pages). *You won't actually write the paper*, but you will complete several of the steps necessary to finish a project of this size. The assignment includes the following components that you should combine into a single document:

Introduction (500-750 words or 1-3 pages)

The introduction is where you lay out the historical topic and its significance and locate your own project within existing scholarship on the topic. This is also where you articulate your *thesis statement*: what is your specific, original interpretation about this historical topic? What are you adding that's new and why is it important? At this stage the thesis statement necessarily will be tentative, but it should be plausible based on the research you've conducted so far.

Literature Review (1000-1250 words or 4-6 pages)

What is the existing scholarship on your topic? A literature review gives an overview of the major secondary sources that are most pertinent for your project. You do not need to cover every single secondary source, but you need to offer concise summaries of the important ones and *briefly explain why they are important for your project*. Does book X provide broader context on the topic? Are you filling in a gap that was not addressed by authors X, Y, and Z? Are you building off the interpretations in article X, or are you correcting them? Are you taking an author's framework or approach and applying it to a different time, place, or subject?

Research Paper Outline (500 words or 1-2 pages)

Construct a tentative outline for a 30-page research paper. This will be speculative, but it shows the reader that you have a working plan for how you are going to go about making your argument and supporting it with evidence. What are the different components of your argument? How are you going to lay out a convincing and well-supported case for your reader? Will it follow a chronological or thematic organization? How does one section tie into the next one? Trying to concretize what a paper might look like will help you break down your project into smaller pieces and give you a sense for what research remains to be done in each of these areas.

Bibliography

The bibliography should be divided into two sections: primary sources and secondary sources. It must include **a minimum of 12 scholarly books or academic journal articles and a minimum of 5 primary sources**. Primary sources should include The bibliography must be formatted according to the Chicago Manual of Style.