Seminar in European History:
The Paris Peace Conference

Required Reading:  
Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers.* (sixth edition)

Recommended:  
Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well.*

Assignments and Grading:

- Presentation of Proposal for Research Topic
- Two Oral Presentations and Class Participation  20%
- Critique of Colleague's Paper  20%
- Seminar Paper  60%

Class Outline:

**Agenda for the Class Session**

- Orientation: The Paris Peace Conference
- Introduction to major documentary collections, databases, historiography, thesis/theme
- Preliminary discussion of possible research topics

- Discussion of MacMillan and Keylor readings
- Discussion of items from Turabian (bring it to class today)

- Discussion of mechanics of writing; ideas from Strunk and White; gathering and recording data; formulating the thesis or theme; revisions; format;
  **DEADLINE TO SELECT TOPIC**

- Discussion of writing styles, clarity, sexist expression, citations, quoting, plagiarism

- Individual Research

- Individual Research/Conferences as needed

**ORAL PRESENTATION I**  (20 minutes each)

**SPRING BREAK**

- Individual Research

- Individual Research

- Seminar: problems encountered in research; suggestions; writing; sources

- Individual Research/Conferences as needed
ORAL PRESENTATION II (3 students, 30-45 minutes each)

SEMINAR PAPER DUE TODAY AT 6 P.M. (two copies to professor and one to the colleague writing a critique); Short class session discussing format and criteria for the critique.

[Final Exam Day—no exam in this course. Your seminar paper and critique are the equivalent of a final exam]

Final Discussion and wrap-up of Paris Peace Conference

CRITIQUE DUE TODAY AT 6 P.M.

Description of Assignments

1. Oral Presentations I and II.
   I. A 20-minute presentation part way through the research process in which the seminar participant provides the following: (a) summary of what you have learned so to date; (b) tentative conclusions reached; (c) sources identified and discussed (primary and secondary); (d) a description of sources needed and avenues of investigation yet to be taken; (e) a draft of the first paragraph of the paper which explains the thesis or theme of the paper. (This is an early draft. Don’t be afraid to allow it to develop and even change significantly as your research progresses.) The presenter should distribute a copy of this paragraph to each seminar participant.
   II. A 30-45 minute presentation near the conclusion of the writing process in which the seminar participant presents the results of the study and invites criticism and comment. The presenter may read brief portions of the finished paper while giving a narrative of the research and writing experience and summarizing the conclusions of the study before inviting comments, questions, and criticism. Essentially, you are teaching a lesson about the topic you have researched. This is your last opportunity to benefit from questions and comments from your colleagues.

2. Critique of Colleague's Paper. A brief (2-3 pages minimum) paper in which the seminar participant provides a critique of a colleague's paper. The critique should address at least the following in any order:
   (a) Does the writer establish the validity of the introductory paragraph? (i.e., Does the paper hang together logically? Does the writer carry out the theme or thesis as established in the introductory paragraph?)
   (b) Is the topic well defined, substantive, and useful in the study of history?
   (c) Evaluate the manuscript’s literary style, addressing such things as clarity, grammatical usage, and effective expression.
   (d) Evaluate the manuscript’s accuracy. (Check at least three citations for accuracy, using the criteria discussed in class; identify which ones you have checked and how accurate they are.) Be sure to select endnotes/footnotes from at least two different sources.
(e) Given the particular topic, is there a different and better way of dealing with it in a seminar paper? Does the critic have any other suggestions to improve this paper? You have done a good deal more reading about the Paris Peace Conference at this time and have a greater font of knowledge upon which to draw than you did earlier in the semester. Your criticism will not negatively impact upon your colleague’s grade; your ability to critique is being assessed in this paper.

(f) Point out which are the strong points of the paper.

3. Seminar Paper. This paper is ordinarily about 20-25 pages in length. It must be double-spaced with margins of one inch on all four sides. Please use 12 pt. Times New Roman. Number pages at the top center. The numeral does not need to appear on page one. You may use either footnotes or a separate section entitled Notes. Be sure to end with a section entitled Bibliography. Use the template provided for the title page.

4. Class Participation. All seminar members are expected to participate in each class session. This participation will take various forms, e.g., formal presentations, questions, discussion, comments, criticisms.
Some Documentary Materials Available on Era of Paris Peace Conference
at Muntz Library.

Bound Volumes


Documents on British Foreign Policy, 1919-1939. (Ref DA 566.7 A18) (we have 51 volumes)


The Peace Handbooks. (D20 G7) Prepared for British delegation to PPC. [Filed in circulation. Be judicious if you check any of these out of the library. Let class know which volumes you check out so that we know where they are during the semester.]

Microform

League of Nations Documents, 1919-1946. (Ref Z6473 R45). Three bound volumes of index and 59 reels of microfilm.

British and Foreign State Papers. (microfiche)

Papers Related to the Foreign Relations of the United States [usually referred to as FRUS in bibliographies.]. These are from the files of the US Dept. of State. Available on microfiche; ultramicrofiche in the PCMI collection JX 233. We also have bound volumes, only for the years 1919-1933, housed upstairs in the circulating collection.

Documents on German Foreign Policy, 1918-1945. (ultramicrofiche in the PCMI collection under JX 691) [title is misleading as to dates covered]

The Times [London]. (microfilm). Indexes are in bound volumes in reference section.

Confidential U.S. Diplomatic Post Records: Russia, 1914-1918. (DK266 A3 C667) (10 reels of microfilm and bound index.)

Histories, Diaries, Correspondence, et al are also available. Only one is listed below.