

Spring 2023 – HIST 615/635 The Scientific Revolution Final Project Guidelines

Final Project Goals

The final project builds upon the work you have been doing all semester in our book reviews and class discussions. You will read a series of related works on a single topic in order to both analyze them individually as we have been doing in our weekly readings/book reviews. However, you will *also* synthesize those individual analyses to have a larger view of the subject.

While we have been attempting to synthesize whenever we discuss how individual works fit into the historiography and other books we have read for class, this final project should allow you to demonstrate your understanding of a focused subfield of early modern English history instead of requiring you to draw conclusions across the whole historiography.

Research Scope

You should read somewhere between 5 and 10 works on your chosen subject. Most of them should have been published in the last 20 years to ensure that you have an "up to date" understanding of the historiography on the subject.

It is acceptable to include **up to one book and one article** we read for class (either required or your free choice) as long as it is clearly central to your chosen subject.

"Works" includes books, book chapters, and journal articles, but if you have several chapters/articles then you should be aiming towards the higher end of the number of sources.

General Requirements

You should be aiming to produce approximately 3,000-3,500 words in whatever format you choose to write in, e.g. an historiographical essay, Wikipedia article, undergraduate lesson plan, article/book prospectus, or some other alternative that you pitch and I accept as commensurate. I have assembled some supporting resources at <https://2023hist635.jessicaotis.com/resources/>

Historiographical Essay Requirements

The historiographical essay should analyze 5-10 works on a single topic and draw overarching conclusions about the current state of knowledge in the field. This essay is an analytical work and must have a *thesis* that is proved by its argument. It is expected that the essay will discuss each work both individually (e.g. analyzing its argument, sources, strengths/weaknesses) and in relation to each other (e.g. how it fits into the historiography). This assignment is the most direct extension of our weekly book reviews/discussions.

You will submit the historiographical essay by emailing it to me as a Word document or PDF.

Wikipedia Article Requirements

The Wikipedia article should demonstrate your understanding of 5-10 works on the topic of your article and summarize the current state of knowledge in the field. This will require you to synthesize information from across various works and make judgement calls as to the strength of various authors' arguments and evidence, as Wikipedia generally expects articles to state the

current historiographical consensus rather than present a debate on it. If you are rewriting an existing/flawed article, you may need to discuss your potential edits in the article's talk page before making major edits. If you are working on a "stub" article or creating a new one, you will need to extensively hyperlink it with other Wikipedia articles and may need to defend its relevance to the Wikipedia editing community. If you find that your "article" may work best as a series of linked articles, please email me to discuss your plan before proceeding.

If you do not have a Wikipedia editing account, you will need to create one. You will submit the article by emailing me a hyperlink to the article as well as your account name; I can track your changes through the edit history feature.

Undergraduate Lesson Plan Requirements

The lesson plan should demonstrate your understanding of 5-10 works on the topic of your lesson plan and summarize the current state of knowledge in the field. This will require you to synthesize information from across various works and make judgement calls as to the strength of various authors' arguments and evidence, in order to state the current historiographical consensus on the subject. You may briefly summarize historiographical debates in your lesson, if you want. Because lesson plans can vary dramatically in presentation, you may choose to write a lecture, create slideshows, create videos, and/or create some other form of classroom activities. In addition to those student-facing documents, you may need to create lesson plan notes with summaries and citations that create the evidence trail for your lesson plan. If you have any concerns about your collection of materials meeting the word count criteria, please email me to discuss your plan before proceeding.

You will submit the lesson plan by emailing it to me as a (series of?) Word document(s), PowerPoint(s), video(s), or PDF(s).

Article/Book Prospectus Requirements

The prospectus should analyze 5-10 works on a single topic and draw overarching conclusions about the current state of knowledge in the field, while demonstrating the need for further research. The prospectus is a combination of an analytical work, whose thesis is "more work is needed on the topic/subtopic," and a research work plan explaining your expected intervention in the historiography, your methods, and your sources. Like the historiography essay, it is expected that the prospectus will discuss each work both individually (e.g. analyzing its argument, sources, strengths/weaknesses) and in relation to each other (e.g. how it fits into the historiography). However, this discussion will be slightly shorter than the prospectus as you make space to write about your own intended research plans. These plans may be for an article-length or book-length work.

You will submit the prospectus by emailing it to me as a Word document or PDF.

Due Date

Final projects are due on **Wednesday, May 10 by 10:15pm**. This is the end of the University-assigned final exam period.