

HIST 1302 Research Project Instructions

The purpose of this research project is to enhance your abilities as a researcher, writer, editor, student, and future professional. You will be required to choose a historical topic and demonstrate what you have learned in your tenure as a student.

Learning Objectives

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

Tasks

This research project divided into a series of tasks, each with its own set of instructions.

1. Select your Topic
2. Compile a Research Journal
3. Outline your Ideas
4. Write your Research Paper
5. Make Corrections

Minimum Requirements for the Paper

Your paper must meet or exceed the minimum requirements listed below:

1. Minimum of approximately 1,500 words. (I will be checking.) You will lose ten points for every 100 words below the minimum limit.
2. Your work needs to be cited in Chicago format with footnotes. There will be no excuse for not having proper citations. There are plenty of materials on my website and the internet on how to do this. No Citations = No Grade
3. Your paper must contain at least three primary and four secondary sources. The secondary sources must come from academic journals.
4. Using Direct Quotes – You are limited to two direct quotes. Five points will be deducted for each direct quote in excess of two.
5. The paper needs to be submitted in Adobe (.pdf) or MSWORD.

Below you will find a step-by-step guide to assist you in developing your research project.

Step 1 – Select your Topic

Selecting a topic for your paper is an important part of the research process. Select a topic that is both interesting to you and that there are enough available resources available. First, the topic must be interesting to you because you will find the paper more difficult to complete if you quickly lose interest. Secondly, you want to choose a topic that has enough available information; for example, writing about pre-Columbian Native American societies, you may run into the problem of a lack of primary sources.

If you wish to discuss a topic with me, you need to visit me during tutoring, office hours or by appointment. We can also discuss your topic through email. There are a few topics that are off-limits. You cannot write papers over topics covered in other assignments in this course. I also ban the Salem Witch Trials, out of redundancy.

Requirements for Topic Selection

1. The topic must be between the years 1865 and 2000.
2. The topic should not be a biography or a summary of an event.
3. The topic should be about United States History
4. Do not choose topics that are too broad, this is a short paper, trying to discuss the Civil War

For a more detailed explanation and advice for topic selection, see the file “1302 Research Project Topic Selection.” Please submit your topics to the corresponding area in the Canvas Modules.

Step 2 - Compiling a Research Journal

A research journal will help you organize and track your sources throughout the research project. A research journal will help save you time; you will know where the information you researched is from and how to get access to it again. Keeping a research journal will strengthen your writing. Record the ideas you come across and write them in your journal; this will come in handy when you get to the writing process. Lastly, a research journal will help you avoid plagiarism by helping you keep track of the information and citations.

There is a Research Journal Worksheet in the Research Project Module in Canvas. This worksheet will assist you in completing your paper’s bibliography.

You will be submitting your research journal; it will be graded on its thoroughness.

Step 3 – Developing an Outline

At some point, before you begin to write your paper, you will need to organize your thoughts and information you have collected. A poorly organized paper is confusing and will leave the reader wondering what the purpose of the paper is.

Organize the information you have collected into major themes you wish to discuss. You will need to distinguish between your main arguments, secondary arguments, and supporting evidence. A sample outline is available at the end of this document ([click here](#)).

Step 4 – The Writing Process

Once your research has been completed, use your outline and research journal to begin the writing process. Do not be discouraged if you are not a perfect writer; expect to make mistakes. You will be fixing your mistakes in “Step 5”.

Step 5 – Editing your Paper

Editing is its own part of the paper writing process. Make sure to finish your paper early enough to leave time for editing. This usually means finishing the papers a week before the submission date.

There are many types of editing

- peer review – you could have a classmate look over your paper for grammar and content mistakes
- using school services – HCC provides tutoring and editing services for their students
- editing apps and software – there are paid and free editing apps available online like Grammarly.
- self-editing – you could edit the paper yourself. This is the least effective method, as you may overlook your own mistakes. To improve this method slightly, you can try reading the paper out loud.

Step 6 – Submitting your work

When you have finished the editing process, you can submit your paper. Please submit your paper to the submission area located in the Major Paper module, located on the Course Home page.



You can only submit your work in Adobe (.pdf) or MSWORD. If you are using GoogleDocs or Pages, please save your work as a pdf file.

Step 7 – Making Corrections

When your paper is returned to you, you will have the opportunity to make corrections. To view your instructor's comments, open the graded paper file from the submission area in Canvas. The comments have been left in MSWORD. Click the Review Tab and then select the "Show Comments" button.

When you finish correcting the mistakes in your paper, you will need to submit your paper in the corresponding submission area located in the Canvas modules.

Sample Outline:

Topic: Why did some women in Germany support the Nazi party?

Introduction:

- basic information: what, where, when (i.e., To what extent did women support the Nazi party?)

- importance of the topic: (i.e., contribution to the rise of Hitler to power?) - the main question to be answered

I. How did the economic situation in Weimar Germany affect women?

- a. A movement towards economic rationalization

- b. Inflation

- c. Unemployment

- the campaign against "double-earner" households

- cuts to social services and call to women to "take up the slack."

II. How did the Nazi Party address the difficulties faced by women?

- b. What was the Party program towards women?

- emphasis on family and motherhood

- natality policy

- c. Were there efforts to organize women specifically?

- housewives' organizations

- League of German Girls - others?...

- d. Did these organizations respond to the needs of women?

- Which women were attracted to these groups, and why?

III. Women's support for Party?

- a. involvement in local organizations?

- b. results of 1932 and 1933 elections?

- c. other evidence?

Conclusion: the answer to your question

Obviously, as you proceed with your research, you will come up with more questions you can work into your outline, and some of your original questions might change. You might discover that your original topic was too broad and that you can write an entire paper just on the housewives' associations, or just

on middle-class women. Likewise, the organization of your outline will change as you learn more. You might decide, for instance, to first discuss the 1932 and 1933 election results. What is important in the end is that your main arguments proceed logically, that each section is clearly related to your main question, and that you have provided sufficient convincing supporting evidence for your argument.