DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
GUIDELINES FOR JUNIOR PAPERS
Class of 2026

During their junior year history majors fulfill the requirements for independent work by writing two historical research papers. The first paper is written during the fall term in conjunction with satisfying the requirements for HIS 400, Junior Seminar. During the spring term students write a second research paper under the guidance of a faculty adviser. The spring-term topic must be in a geographical field and time period different from that of the fall-term paper. If there are any questions about the designation of fields, the student should see the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Kevin Kruse. These exercises are designed to enhance the student’s facility for conducting research, particularly in primary sources, and for presenting findings and conclusions in a cogent manner. The following guidelines apply to both papers.

GENERAL FORMAT
A 12-point font size similar to Times New Roman is mandatory. The text must be double-spaced, with wide margins and paragraphs that are clearly indented. (Margins of an inch on the left, right, top, and bottom should be adequate.) If printed, it may be printed double-sided using a black-letter type upon plain white paper.

The title page should contain the title, name of author, and date. At the bottom of the title page you should certify that "This paper represents my own work in accordance with University regulations," and sign your name. An electronic signature is acceptable. (See attached sample title page.)

The prescribed minimum length of text, excluding appendices, charts, bibliography, illustrations, or images (text only) is twenty-five (25) pages. Most Junior Papers fall in the 30-35 page range. Those that are longer than that could usually benefit from being edited for concision. Students must receive adviser permission for papers longer than 40 pages.

All drafts, prospectus and final work are to be uploaded to the student’s shared folder in Google Drive. A link to this folder will be provided at the beginning of each term and regularly throughout the semester. Students may expect their adviser to upload comments to this folder.
QUOTATIONS

Use quotations sparingly, keep them brief, and work them into the flow of your own narrative. If a long quotation must be used, take it out of the body of the text, indent, and single-space. Quotations treated in this manner are called block quotations. Quotation marks are not used for block quotations.

The omission of a word or phrase from a quotation is indicated by an ellipsis, or three spaced periods ( . . . ), at the point of omission. If the omitted words would have ended a sentence, a fourth period should be added to indicate the normal terminal punctuation.

A quotation must conform to the original in every detail. Do not correct misspellings or other errors, but insert after them the Latin word sic in brackets to show that the error was in the original. Brackets, not parentheses, are also used to insert a clarifying word or phrase of your own into quoted material. Be careful to check all quotations against the original sources to ensure absolute accuracy.

FOOTNOTES

Footnotes must be used to indicate the sources of:

1) all quotations and statistical data,
2) all facts not generally known to historians, and
3) all opinions or interpretations that are not your own, whether quoted, paraphrased, or summarized.

Footnotes may also include your comments on the sources, remarks on disagreement among authorities, or essential information that cannot appropriately fit into the text. However, as a general rule, anything worth saying at all is worth saying in the text. Do not use your footnotes as a dumping ground for surplus data.

Number footnotes consecutively throughout the paper. The footnote number, elevated above the line of type, should come at the end of the sentence for which a citation is needed. If the material in one or more paragraphs is all derived from a single work, put your footnote at the end of the section containing this material. If a single sentence or paragraph contains material from a number of sources, the sources may all be cited in the same footnote, separated by semicolons.

Footnotes should be placed at the bottom of the page upon which the material in question appears. They should be separated from the text by a short black line beginning at the left hand margin. Subject to your adviser’s approval, notes may be typed consecutively at the end the paper. In either case, the notes should be single-spaced with the first line of each note indented.
There is no single, universally accepted set of rules for citations. You probably will notice in your reading that different publishers and authors use different forms of footnotes. However, most historians follow the so-called Chicago style, which is based on the Chicago Manual of Style, and this is the format recommended by the Department of History.

The following rules provide a basic guide to the most common types of footnotes. (Additional examples are found in A Pocket Guide to Writing in History by Mary Lynn Rampolla, a reference work that is distributed to all students enrolled in HIS 400.) You will also find our History Librarians Steven Knowlton and Alain St. Pierre to be helpful resources along with this Library Guide for History.

**Book:**

The first time you cite a book, give the author's full name, the full title of the book as it appears on the title page, the place of publication, the publisher's name, the date of publication, and page from which your material has been drawn. Note that the publication data is enclosed in parentheses. For example:


**Multivolume Works:**

When all the volumes in a multivolume work have the same title, a reference to pages within a single volume is given in the following manner. (Note that the volume number is given in Arabic numerals and that the volume and page numbers are separated by a colon.) For example:


When each volume in a multivolume work has a different title, a reference to pages within a single volume is given as follows:


**Article in a Scholarly Journal:**

For the first citation of an article, give the author's full name, the full title, and the name, volume number, month and year, and page number of the journal or quarterly. For example:

Subsequent Citation:
Subsequent citations of the same book or article should give only the author's last name and an abbreviated (short) title. For example:

5. Schlesinger, Robert Kennedy, 295.


Use of the Abbreviation “Ibid.”
If a footnote refers to the same source that was cited in the immediately preceding footnote, the abbreviation ibid. (for *ibidem*, which means “in the same place”) may take the place of the author’s name, title of the work, and as much of the succeeding material as is identical. For example:

7. Ibid., 699.

Collected Works.
In citing printed collected works such as diaries or letters, the author’s name may be omitted if it is included in the title. The name of the editor follows the title, preceded by a comma and the abbreviation “ed.,” which stands for “edited by.” For example:


Manuscript:
In citing correspondence from manuscript collections, give the full names of the writer and recipient, the date the letter was written, and the manuscript collection in which it may be found. The first time a collection is cited, its name should be given in full and its location should be indicated. For example:


Subsequent citations should abbreviate the name of the collection and omit location of the collection. For example:

In the case of large collections, you should indicate the number of the box (or designation of the file) in which the cited material may be found. For example:


**Article in Popular Magazine:**

It is not necessary to cite the volume or issue number of a magazine of general interest. Note, however, that the abbreviation “p” is required to distinguish clearly between the date of publication and page number. For example:

12. Michael Rogers, “Software for War, or Peace: All the World’s a Game,” *Newsweek*, Dec. 9, 1985, p. 82.

**Newspaper:**

For reference to a newspaper, the name of the paper and date usually are sufficient. However, for large newspapers, particularly those made up of sections, it is desirable to give the page number. For example:


**Website:**

Include as much of the following information as is available: author, title of the site, sponsor of the site, and the site’s URL. When no author is named, treat the sponsor as the author. For example:


The *Chicago Manual of Style* does not advise including the date that you accessed a Web source, but you may provide the date after the URL if the cited material is time sensitive.

**Abbreviations:**

Should you cite certain sources repeatedly, you may wish to develop a system of abbreviations to simplify your footnotes. In this case, a page explaining the abbreviations should follow the title page. For example:

DOHC       Dulles Oral History Collection  
*FRUS*     Foreign Relations of the United States
SAMPLE FOOTNOTES


7. Ibid., 699.


12. Michael Rogers, “Software for War, or Peace: All the World’s a Game,” *Newsweek*, Dec. 9, 1985, p. 82.


BIBLIOGRAPHY

The bibliography should list all primary and secondary sources that are actually used in writing your paper. Sources are listed alphabetically by author, editor, or publishing agency (when no author or editor is given). Single-space each item with double-spacing between items and sections of the bibliography. Bibliographies of papers that draw upon a number of archival and manuscript sources normally are divided into sections. The following is an acceptable model for delineating various categories of primary and secondary sources.

**Primary Sources**

**Government Archives:**
Records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Record Group 218. National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.
Manuscript Collections:

Government Documents:


Memoirs and Collected Papers:

Contemporary Journals and Newspapers:
New York Times, 1921-1923

Secondary Sources

Books and Articles:


Unpublished Material:

SUBMISSION OF PAPERS
Junior papers must be uploaded to your shared file in Google Drive (link will be sent to you). At the writing of this document (July 2024) the submission date for Fall JPs is **Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at or before 5:00 pm ET.** The date for spring submission of the JP is set for **Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at or before 5:00 pm ET.** Communication by email will be sent to all History Juniors with further details on submission deadlines and details.
NOTE: Once these dates have been finalized extensions beyond these dates can be granted only by the deans of residential colleges. Extensions normally are granted only in the case of illness or family emergencies.

If a student fails to meet the deadline and was not granted the appropriate extension by their dean, they will receive an F on the JIW. If late submissions are approved, 1/3 of a letter grade penalty (an A becomes an A-; an A- becomes a B+; and so on) will be applied for every 48 hours that the completed final assignment is late.