

SEMINARS IN HISTORY

This foundation course, compulsory for all First-year students of History and History combined degrees at SSEES, aims to help students develop the key skills required for studying history at university and also for life after university. The study of these skills is embedded in a challenging historical topic. Tutors will specifically avoid subjects which regularly appear on A-Level syllabuses and BA courses and also subjects closely related to their own research expertise, in order to relate the teaching and learning of skills to subject areas which both students and tutors can explore more or less from scratch and where tutors can share their own experience as researchers, writers and speakers, as well as their experience of working with students and evaluating their work. This is not a course in which students listen respectfully to the 'sage on the stage', but one in which they co-operate actively with the tutor in order to develop their skills and take responsibility for their own learning.

Topics previously used as vehicles for the embedding of skills include: Food in History; Maps in History; the Emperor Augustus; the Templars and the Da Vinci Code; Ibn-Fadlan and the Rus; Neanderthal Survival; the 1848 Revolutions; the Ninth-Century Hungarians; the French Enlightenment and the Wallace Collection; television in the Soviet Union.

All full-time SSEES History staff participate in delivering this course, thus ensuring small tutorial groups. Students are allocated, wherever possible, to their own personal tutors, thus ensuring that they get to know who they are over a sustained period of time.

PRELIMINARY READING

There is no preliminary reading for this course

Title: Seminars in History

Course Code: SEHI1001

Course-unit value: 0.5

Level: Level One

Availability: 2009-10 (Term One only)

Open to: All SSEES V101 first-year students and Combined Honours students

Prerequisites: None

Course leader: Rebecca Haynes (as Head of Dept)

Other participants: All full-time staff in the SSEES History Dept

Aims:

To embed the learning of skills which you will need in the rest of your university career and beyond through study of a challenging historical topic; to build a relationship between students and their personal tutors

Objectives:

By the end of the course, students should have improved their skills in the following areas:

1. Researching for essays, presentations and other projects (using written and electronic sources; libraries and the Internet)
 2. Reading critically and effectively
 3. Writing effectively (grammar and spelling; appropriate style; setting out bibliographies and footnotes; structuring an argument)
 4. Speaking confidently (making formal presentations and contributing to discussions)
 5. Listening (evaluating presentations; asking questions)
 4. Time management (meeting deadlines; advance organization)
 5. Working with others (teamwork; liaison)
 6. Feeling confident about approaching their personal tutor for help and direction
-

Teaching & Learning Methods:

Number of Hours:

Classes 10 hours (but this is very much a minimum, as classes may be supplemented by visits and films)

Private Study Approximately 130 hours (although this will vary according to individual needs)

Assessment:

SEHI1001

This course is Pass/Fail only. It constitutes a 'core course' within the History Dept curriculum, and it must be passed to progress to Year 2.

Course Requirement: 100% completion of coursework, as laid down by individual tutors; full attendance at all classes.

Repeated absence without adequate explanation will lead to the failure of this course and the need to repeat before progressing to Year 2.

AFFILIATE STUDENTS: Not available to Affiliate students