

HIST467
History of Mountaineering
Research Paper or Project

A major objective of this course will be to undertake original research on a topic in the history of mountaineering. This will most likely entail writing a well-worked, professional research paper of about 8,000 words (15-20 pages). The topic is up to you and may include anything to do with the history of mountaineering, broadly conceived, but it must directly engage the themes of this course (verticality in history; relationship between science and mountaineering; social and cultural forces directing mountaineering; gender; empire; etc.).

Your final product should demonstrate a mastery of both primary and secondary material. That is, you should understand the broader intellectual debates surrounding your topic, including who has written on it in the past and what approach they have taken, and you should commit yourself to the original sources surrounding the topic, which may include oral interviews, primary journal, magazine, or newspaper articles, published biographies, and the like. Because you must engage the themes we are discussing in the course, your secondary material will also need to include the course readings. Other material may include primary and secondary literature that you will acquire through interlibrary loan, online databases and journals, and print material, all accessed through the MSU Library system.

You will turn in a three-page project prospectus and sources on March 2nd.

You will turn in draft of the project on March 28th. At the beginning of class, you will distribute your draft to three other students in the class. You will have until the following Tuesday to critically analyze these, adding your own thoughts and suggestions. You should bring written comments – in a separate document or written in the margins throughout the prospectus – to class that Tuesday. During that class, we will be going over each other's research. You will meet in groups of four, so you will have a chance to discuss in depth your written or marginal comments. We will then discuss everyone's research in a large group.

On Tuesday, April 18th, your final research projects are due. This should be a finished, polished product. In addition to handing in this final draft, you will also hand in the previous three-page prospectus, and any comments that we have returned to you.

In the following two weeks, you will present your research to the class.