

HIST467  
History of Mountaineering  
**Research Paper**

A major objective of this course is 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 5,000 words (15 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; mountain 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 journals, magazines, 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 Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

You will turn in your final paper on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 I have returned to you.