

HSTR 207CS: Science and Technology in World History

WRITING STUDIO IV Research Prospectus

Due November 12th

In the first studio, you presented your topic, a bird's-eye view of the issue you want to pursue, some ideas about how you might want to pursue it, and some of the sources you will use.

In the second studio, you engaged the question of how the study of history can help inform your topic.

In this studio, you need to write a prospectus outlining your research. A research prospectus is a scheme or narrative that lays out your plan of work and the approach you are taking. It should present your major argument (your thesis) that you intend to defend, and then describe how you will put that argument into place throughout your paper. You will want to introduce the topic, where your approach fits into the larger discussions surrounding the topic (creating a niche), how you intend to participate in that discussion (occupying that niche), and the broader significance of your work.

You are welcome to include some of the material required in your previous writing studios. For instance, the first paragraph may include a reworking of your topic. An additional paragraph may include the reworking of how history matters to your approach. The additional material will entail teasing out how you plan to argue your point. You will want to end your discussion with the ramifications (importance, significance, the "so what?") of your work.

Another way to look at this is from my perspective: I want to know that you have narrowed your project, formulated your goals, and are at the point of undertaking the project. Thus, the assignment 1) will demonstrate that you are on your way, 2) will allow me to analyze your approach and make certain that you are not missing important material, and 3) enable me to focus minutely on your writing and organization. Thus, it can be viewed as a short rough draft of your final product, something I can critique, give back to you, and have you incorporate into your final project.

In addition to the two-page prospectus, you should also include a bibliography of the material you are using. This should include material we have read during the course, and material that you are using specific to your own research.

You will work on your written product in your studio. You are also required to email me a copy by the beginning of class (as a word document). My email is mreidy@montana.edu