This class is intended to provide History Honors Program students with the basic skills required to write a larger original piece of historical research (an Honors thesis or paper). The class will survey different historiographical traditions; examine different approaches to the interpretation of original source material; and consider the political and cultural implications of writing history. We will focus especially on developing skills in writing, argumentation, and historical interpretation. We will, for example, learn to distinguish different kinds of sources, and practice the crafting of a historical argument. We will also think about the relevance of history to contemporary discourse, and ask why history matters in our own daily lives.

You will be evaluated on the basis of class participation and several writing assignments.