

“HOW TO READ”



Upper-Division History Classes &
History Readings

WARM UP



What do you anticipate from upper-division history courses?

or

What is an upper-division history course like?

WHAT CURRENT
HISTORY MAJORS
HAVE TO SAY

**Increased
reading &
writing load**

**More specific
courses (time period,
topic, theme)**

**HIS 7B: Latin America 1700-1900
HIS 161: Human Rights in Latin
America**

**Less explicit
guidance (no
discussion
sections)**

**HIS Seminar:
Discussion
Based**

PAIR SHARE:

What are you **concerned about**
and/or **looking forward to**
as you transition into upper-divisions?



HOW TO READ STRATEGICALLY



BIG PICTURE



- Read for the main argument
 - Reflect on this once you're done
- Try not to narrow in on or memorize small details
 - Read the evidence and understand how it fits to the argument

“Students can spend many hours reading and have nothing to say; that's not worthwhile. Another student might spend 45 minutes reading strategically and have several interesting things to say; that's a student who is understanding the process.”

-Professor Gregory Downs

DRAW CONNECTIONS

- Link readings to lectures and previous readings
- Look for overall themes across readings



GEAR YOUR READING



- Focus on headers, topic sentences, introductions, conclusions
- Consider how the author's organization connects to the central argument
- Consider paper prompts and find supporting evidence

TAKE NOTES

- Annotate for key terms, people, events
- Take note of the overall arguments and include some supporting details
- Pick out quotes that can be useful for writing assignments



PACE YOURSELF



- Consider the chapters/pages assigned and divide them over a few days
- Allow yourself time to review reading notes before lectures
- Strive to have necessary readings and notes complete before starting paper assignments

For Friday: Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism*, Chapters 7-9

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Crosby Chapter 7 (1/2)	Crosby Chapter 7 (2/2)	Crosby Chapter 8 (1/2)	Crosby Chapter 8 (2/2) & Review Notes	Start HIS XXX Reading for Monday

Wednesday: Colin Imber, *The Ottoman Empire, 1300-1650: The Structure of Power*, PP. 177-227

Next Monday: Paper I Due

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Imber Reading pp. 177-207 Outline Paper I	Imber Reading pp. 208-227 Start Paper Rough Draft	Finish Friday Reading	Work on Paper	Work on Paper

GROUP SHARE:

Which of these tips did you find the **most helpful** and/or the **most important**?



FOCUS & REFLECT

Disengage (yes phones off)

Remind yourself key points—what is she/he trying to tell you?

Tell someone—bore your roommate—about key points

Take a short walk between chapters

“Distraction is often seen as a generational problem. I’ve always been an avid reader but now I find myself, even when reading a book I love, checking my phone or watch and having my mind wander. Focus on the book—it’s good for your studies and the soul. I tell myself that all the time.”

Professor Charles Walker

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:

Attend office hours

Listed on your syllabus and on our department website

Create study groups

Some courses may offer reading guides/questions

Check for audio books and/or text to speech

ACCESSIBILITY SOFTWARE



UCDAVIS

**STUDENT DISABILITY
CENTER**



AATC WRITING CENTER



HELPFUL LINKS

Department page provides information on

Major requirements

Tentative schedules and expanded course descriptions

Sample 4 year plans

HISTORY



ADVISING CENTER



The background features a watercolor illustration of autumn-themed elements. At the top left, there are leaves in shades of purple, red, and orange. To the right is a large, light-colored pumpkin. Below these, there are more leaves in yellow and green. On the right side, there is a vertical stem with small yellow leaves. At the bottom left, there is a large green pumpkin. At the bottom center, there are small yellow leaves. At the bottom right, there is a stem with small red berries. The entire illustration is set against a white background, which is itself on a dark blue gradient background.

History Department

FALL WELCOME

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
History Patio

Outside 2216 Social Science & Humanities Building

Come connect with other History undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff. Donuts and coffee will be served.

All students interested in History are welcome!

REMEMBER
YOUR “WHY”



THANK YOU

To :

Our attendees

History majors and professors who shared their advice

Fellow Peer Advisors & Parinita