

INFO 290: Academic Travel Course

Chemistry, Codes & Crimes in British History

Assignment Details

Preparatory Narrative Paper – 15%

Due Friday, May 10th

As noted on the syllabus, you need read two scholarly articles relating to the history of the one of the sites we will be visiting. Prior to the trip you must write up your thoughts on what you hope to get out of visiting this item/location with respect to your understanding of at least one of the course themes. You should also look at relevant online resources (museum website or similar) to gain more insights of what to expect. Your paper should be 1000-1300 words in length, typed, double-spaced, in 12-pt. font. Judicial use of the first person is okay in this paper. Include appropriate citations in whatever format you choose (just be consistent). You can e-mail it by midnight on the 10th.

Travel Journal/Blog (with images) – 25%

Due Friday, May 31st

The format of your journal/blog can be either digital or hard copy. The minimum acceptable length is one 300-word entry, accompanied by one image, per day. Images may be photographs you take yourself, sketches you draw, or postcards you purchase. If you would like feedback as we go, you can ask us to look at what you're doing and we can encourage you, if needed, to push yourself further. You should consider including descriptions of places, experiences, people you interact with – what will be memorable to you about this trip??? It does not need to be limited to the themes of the course, but you should have at least passing mention of them on most days. Your grade will be based on the care you take with your journal, and the depth of your insights. If it's just "I ate this and didn't like it" that's not going to earn you as many points as a thorough description of what it was and why you didn't like it. Variation in the types of topics you consider will also earn you more points on the final grade.

Research Paper – 25%

Due Friday, May 31st

This paper should build on your Preparatory Narrative Paper, so you will again use those sources plus information gained from visiting the item/location. Pick up free materials on site, see what's on offer in the bookstore, ask questions of the guides and take notes, etc. You must also use at least three additional scholarly sources that you may choose to read before, during, or after the trip.

Questions to consider in writing your Research Paper: What is the overall significance of the item/location you studied? Was it what you expected? Should others visit it? How do academics view this item/location? Is it scholarly...or is it a tourist trap?

Unlike the Preparatory Narrative Paper, you should use objective phrasing, without first person. The other technical specifics are the same as your first paper, however. The length should be between 1500-2000 words, and who grades it will depend on what your topic is – if it's Chemistry, Laura will grade it; if it's Codes, Christine will grade it; if it's Crimes, Audra will grade it, for the most part.