

Patrick Bernhard

HIS2320

Kvalifiseringsoppgave/Compulsory Assignment:

Students taking this class have to submit a mandatory abstract of 1-2 pages on a topic of their own choice (within the broad framework of post-1945 historiography on and public commemoration of WWII). The topics for the abstracts (and thus term papers) have to be approved by the course leader before being submitted in week 8. In case the student's proposal gets accepted – subject to possible revision – this will qualify for the final examination which takes the form of a final term paper.

Eksamensoppgave/Final Term Paper:

The students will write their final term paper on the basis of their revised abstracts. This will take the form of a small research paper on a topic of their own choice. The course leader will provide assistance both on the choice of the subject and its refinement. The subject of the term paper has to be related to the overall topic of the course, that is the history of history writing on WWII, Axis Occupation and Liberation after 1945. There is a wide range of possible research topics: students may want to work on a particular aspect of German occupation in France, Norway and Denmark that we discussed in class (such as sexualized violence against women during Liberation), but their papers may also cover other countries that experienced Axis occupation during WWII such as Korea as well as societies beyond Europe that supported the allied war efforts, in particular in Africa. Finally, students may want to engage with the effects the defeat of 1945 had for former perpetrator countries such as Germany, Italy and Japan. It is imperative that students do not engage exclusively in the war time events themselves; rather the focus of their papers is on how these events were dealt with after 1945 by scholars and, more broadly, in politics, society, law and art. Thus, it is imperative that students deal with historiographical debates and methodological considerations; for instance, the fundamental problem how to write the history of most recent time periods. Students are also encouraged to work on topics that have not been dealt with during the course. All course participants, however, are expected to reflect on their approaches in their term papers, that is to provide a theoretical and methodologic framework. Students are expected to research supplementary literature in addition to the one provided in the mandatory reading list/Pensum. All papers are expected to be based on a reasonable amount of secondary literature and, when appropriate, also on primary sources (this is the case in particular with papers that deal with more recent time periods on which we do not have much secondary literature yet). All papers have to be in accordance with the guidelines on how to write a history term paper; guidelines and recommendations that we discussed in week 8 of the course. The total length of the B.A. paper is 4,000-5,000 words; M.A. student papers are expected to reach the upper limit of the margin.