

HIS 2317/4317 Twentieth-Century Social History in the West: Issues and Approaches

Examiner's guidelines

Klaus Nathaus

Exam task:

"Write a scientific paper on a research question that is relevant in view to historiographical research on twentieth-century social history. Develop a research question and answer it on the basis of a) selected readings from the pensum and b) additional research literature on your chosen topic. Bachelor students are expected to submit a paper of between eight and ten pages, master students should submit between 13 and 15 standard pages."

The pensum contains pertinent case studies on relevant topics such as working-class communities in early twentieth-century Britain, gender and sex relations in Britain and America during the same period, the impact of mass media on society during the 1930s and 40s in the US and Germany, consumer culture and suburbanization in post-war America, 1960s counterculture, and social implications of political and economic changes since the mid-1970s. Four lectures contextualized these themes and provided additional literature. Students were encouraged to explore in further depth a relevant, more tightly defined topic. In two extra seminars, they were offered guidance on how to research and read historiographical literature and prepare and write a course paper.