COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar examines the perspectives from which the early Chinese perceived themselves, their realm, the world and beyond from high antiquity to the medieval period. It traces the development of early Chinese cosmography and epistemology by focusing on how their perspectives came to be complicated by encounters, as individuals or as a collective, with things foreign—be they ideas, goods, peoples, places, and practices—and supernatural. The course covers readings that treat “China” as a political entity and/or a territory that is bordered off on the map as well as those that discuss “China” as part of an ever-changing universe where the line between this world and the next is tentative at best.

UNDERGRADUATE LEARNING GOALS

This course satisfies the following Asian Languages and Cultures Departmental Learning Goals for East Asian Languages and Area Studies (214), Chinese (165) and Area Studies (098) majors and minors. See full statement of Asian Languages and Cultures Departmental Learning Goals at: http://asianstudies.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/learning-goals

COURSE REQUIREMENTS — UNDERGRADUATE

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Analysis of Primary Sources (WAPS)</td>
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<td>Term Paper</td>
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS — GRADUATE

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<tr>
<td>Weekly Analysis of Primary Sources (WAPS)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper (abstract &amp; outline 5%)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class participation is mandatory. Any student who misses more than FOUR classes will automatically fail the course. Should you miss a class, please use the Absence Self-Reporting system (https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. Class participation does not mean just attendance. It encompasses 1) attendance at lectures; 2) observation of classroom decorum (on time arrival and no chatting, texting, eating, gaming, or surfing the internet); 3) timely completion of reading assignments; and 4) active participation in discussions. Students must always bring the reading materials assigned for that day to class.

ADDITIONAL TUTORIAL AND TUTORIAL PRESENTATION (FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

Starting in the second week of the semester, the graduate students will meet with me every other week for one hour to discuss the additional readings. The time and place are to be decided upon consultation. Students are to lead the seminar discussion in turn. Each student is expected to make
at least TWO presentations throughout the semester. Everyone is required to come prepared for discussion whether or not s/he is presenting.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments will be evaluated based on the presentation of the material, the level of critical interpretation/reflection, and clear and logical development of the argument and thesis.

A. WEEKLY ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY SOURCE (WAPS)
Each WAPS will consist of the close reading of one assigned primary source. It should be between 275-300 words in length. Each undergraduate student is advised although not required to submit ONE analytical reflection each week. The TEN highest grades will be used when calculating the course grade. Each graduate student is required to submit ONE per week. All WAPS are due on Friday in class starting on September 4, 2015. (See attachments for details)

B. TERM PAPER (FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)
Each student is expected to complete a term paper for this course. The paper will be an analytical essay centering on a question drawn from course materials. Students must engage the primary sources directly and use them to support arguments. The paper should be between 1000-1250 words in length. (See attachments for more details).

C. BOOK REVIEW (FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)
Each graduate student has to complete TWO book reviews. The first one should be on Cosmology and Political Culture in Early China and the second on Buddhist and Taoism Face to Face. Each review must be 800-1000 words in length. (See attachments for more details).

D. RESEARCH PAPER (FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)
Each graduate student has to complete a paper of original research on one aspect of Early Chinese cosmography and epistemology of his/her choice. An abstract and outline of the paper are due on 12/01 (See attachments for more details). The paper must have a cogent and clearly stated thesis as well as consults and evaluates both primary and secondary sources. The paper should be between 4000-4500 words in length, typed, double-spaced, with each page numbered and encloses a word count at the end. S/he should provide proper citations using footnote and attach a full bibliography. Please make sure that paper is free from grammatical and spelling errors. The paper will be evaluated based on the following criteria: 1) the originality; 2) strength of argumentation; 3) structure and organization; 4) evaluation and use of sources; and 5) language and grammar.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity at all times. Violations include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. If you ever have questions about academic integrity in the course, please talk to me or send me an email immediately with your concerns. See full statement of current Academic Integrity Policy at: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

It is the policy of Rutgers to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to request accommodations to complete your course requirements, please contact the Office of Disability Services and ask to speak with a Coordinator (848-445-6800 or dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu) about accommodations.

COURSE MATERIALS

There are two types of course materials, books to be purchased and individual articles or book chapters available for download at the course website. Students must bring to the class a copy of the assigned reading.

I. REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS


II. REQUIRED FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY [* = ON SAKAI]

§ Christine Mollier, Buddhist and Taoism Face to Face. University of Hawai‘i Press, 2008*

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 1-2 PM or by appointment.
COURSE SCHEDULE:
* = the item is on Sakai and required for all students
มง = the item is required only for graduate students
(Reading must be completed by the date indicated)

PART I — THE FRAMEWORK

Week 1:
09/01 Tue: Introduction
09/04 Fri: The World that the Ancestors Made (I)
   * Sources of Chinese Tradition (SCT), Ch. 1: “The Oracle-Bone Inscriptions of the Late Shang Dynasty,” pp. 3-23. [Choose one oracle for WAPS]
   มง Eno, “Shang State Religion and the Pantheon of the Oracle Texts”, in Early Chinese Religion, pp. 41-102*

Week 2:
09/08 Tue: No Class
09/11 Fri: The World that the Ancestors Made (II)

Week 3:
09/15 Tue: The World that Gods and Heroes Forged (I)
   Birrell, Chinese Mythology, Chs. 2, 3, and 4, pp. 40-112. [Choose one story for WAPS]
09/18 Fri The World that Gods and Heroes Forged (II)
   Birrell, Chinese Mythology, Chs. 6, 7, 8 and 9, pp. 130-180. [Choose one story for WAPS.]
   มง Wang, Cosmology and Political Culture in Early China, Ch. 1

Week 4:
09/22 Tue The First and the Oldest Questions
   Birrell, Chinese Mythology, Ch. 1, 23-39 [Choose one story for WAPS]
   มง Wang, Cosmology and Political Culture in Early China, Ch. 2
09/25 Fri The Dao (Tao)/The Way (I)
   มง Wang, Cosmology and Political Culture in Early China, Ch. 3
Week 5
09/29 Tue: **The Dao (Tao)/The Way (II)**
  * Wang, *Cosmology and Political Culture in Early China*, Ch. 4

10/02 Fri: **The World that is Very Predictable (I)**
  * Shaughnessy, “The Religion of Ancient China”, pp. 503-510
  * Smith, *Fathoming the Cosmos and Ordering the World*, Ch. 1: “The Birth of the Changes,” pp. 7-30
  * Hawaii Reader, Ch. 4: “Milfoil-Divination” [WAPS]
  * Wang, *Cosmology and Political Culture in Early China*, Ch. 5 and Conclusion

Week 6:
10/06 Tue: **The World that is Very Predictable (II)**
  * Hawaii Reader, Ch. 26: “The Five Phases” [WAPS]

10/09 Fri: **The Body as Cosmos**
  * Liu, *The Essential Huainanzi*, Ch. 7: Quintessential Spirit  [WAPS]

Week 7:
10/13 Tue: **The World Within Oneself**
  * Schipper, *Taoist Body*, Ch. 6: “The Inner Landscape,” pp. 100-12

10/16 Fri: **Coordinating the Three Realms: Heaven, Earth, and Man**

PART II. THE ENCOUNTERS

Week 8:
10/20 Tue: **China Encountered Buddhism**
# Book Review (Graduate Students Only)

**Zürcher, Buddhist Conquest of China, Ch. 1: “Introductory Remarks,“ pp. 1-17**

**10/23 Fri: Buddhist Cosmology & Cosmography**

* Lopez, *Buddhist Scripture*, Ch. 1: The Realms of Rebirth: pp. 3-18

**10/30 Fri: Immortals and Their Abodes**

* Kohn, *Introduction to Daoism*, Ch. 3: “From Health to Immortality,” pp. 50-63 and Ch. 8: “Religious Practice,” pp. 130-9
* Birrell, *Chinese Mythology*, Ch. 10: Immortality, pp. 9

**11/03 Tue: Journey to the Lands of the Immortals**


**11/06 Fri: Fantastic Beasts and Plants and Where to Find Them**

* Birrell, *Chinese Mythology*, Ch. 14: Fabled Flora and Fauna
* Strassberg, *A Chinese Bestiary*, pp. 81-123

**11/10 Tue: Mountain Goblins & Transfiguring Animals**

* Campany, *A Garden of Marvels*, pieces# 20, 30, 55, 104, and 176

WEEK 9:

**10/27 Tue: Travels to the Land of the Buddha**

* Monk Faxian, “The Journey of Faxian to India” 

**10/30 Fri: Immortals and Their Abodes**

* Kohn, *Introduction to Daoism*, Ch. 3: “From Health to Immortality,” pp. 50-63 and Ch. 8: “Religious Practice,” pp. 130-9
* Birrell, *Chinese Mythology*, Ch. 10: Immortality, pp. 9

**11/03 Tue: Journey to the Lands of the Immortals**


**11/06 Fri: Fantastic Beasts and Plants and Where to Find Them**

* Birrell, *Chinese Mythology*, Ch. 14: Fabled Flora and Fauna
* Strassberg, *A Chinese Bestiary*, pp. 81-123

**11/10 Tue: Mountain Goblins & Transfiguring Animals**

* Campany, *A Garden of Marvels*, pieces# 20, 30, 55, 104, and 176
Week 11:
11/13 Fri: The Wandering Souls
*Hawkes, trans., The Songs of South, “Summons of the Soul” and “The Great Summon”, pp. 219-242 [Choose one poem for WAPS]
§Ying-shih Yu, “O soul, come back! A study in the changing conceptions of the soul and afterlife in pre-Buddhist China” HIAS 47.2 (1987) 363-395

Week 12:
11/17 Tue: Death, the Dead & Immortality
*Csikszentmihalyi, Readings in Han Chinese Thought, # 8.2: “Falsehoods about the Way,” pp. 150-152 [WAPS]
*Campany, A Garden of Marvels, pieces #149, 216, 217 and 221 [Choose one story for WAPS]
§Mollier, Buddhist and Taoism Face to Face, Ch. 5 and conclusion

11/20 Fri: Demons and Spirit
*Csikszentmihalyi, Readings in Han Chinese Thought, #7.1: “Far-Reaching Discussions,” pp. 122-6. [WAPS]
*Campany, A Garden of Marvels, pieces #11, 59, 64, and 209 [Choose one story for WAPS]
§Li, “They Shall Expel Demons: Etiology, the Medical Canon and the Transformation Of Medical Techniques Before The Tang,” in Early Chinese Religion, pp. 1103-1150

Week 13:
11/24 Tue: Journeys to the Underworlds
*Campany, “Return-from-Death Narratives in Early Medieval China,” JCR 18 (1990): 91-125
*Choo, The Taiping Guangji, “Dong Guan” and “Vice Magistrate of Liuhe County” [Choose one story for WAPS]
§Kieschnick, The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture, Introduction

11/25 Wed: Mothers in Hell
*Grant & Idema, Escape From Blood Pond Hell, “The Blood Bowl Sutra,” pp. 24-5 [WAPS]
§Kieschnick, The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture, Ch. 2

Week 14:
12/01 Tue: China, The Center of the Universe?
#Abstract & Outline Due (Graduate Students Only)
* Holcombe, The Genesis of E. Asia, Ch. 2: “E Pluribus Sericum,” pp. 8-29
*di Cosmo, Ancient China and its Enemies, Ch. 4, “Wars and Horses,” pp. 127-158
*Hawaii Reader, Ch. 27: “The Xiongnu, Raiders from the Steppe” [WAPS]
§Kieschnick, The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture, Ch. 3

12/04 Fri: The Barbarians & Their Far-off Lands (I)
*Holcombe, The Genesis of E. Asia, Ch. 3: “Civilizing Mission,” pp. 30-77
*SJT, Section: Japan in the Chinese Dynastic Histories, pp. 5-10 [Choose one account for WAPS]
*SKT, Section: Japan in the Chinese Dynastic Histories, pp. 6-12 [Choose one kingsom for WAPS]
‡Kieschnick, The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture, Ch. 4 and Conclusion

Week 15:
12/08 Tue: The Exotics in a Cosmopolitan China
    #Book Review II Due (Graduate Students Only)
12/13 Sun: Term Paper Due (undergraduate Students Only)
Early China in the World

Weekly Analysis of Primary Source (WAPS)

**Weight:** 50 points/submission for undergraduate students
20 points/submission for graduate students

**Grade:** Only the **10 best grades** will be count toward the course grade

**Due Date:** Every Friday in class starting **September 4, 2015** (no late submission)

**Description**

A weekly analysis of primary source is a very short essay focus on one assigned document. A primary source could be a text or an object. It is a relic of time produced by people who are now long dead. You should treat each primary source as a time capsule that preserves a piece of history. All scholars in the humanities work with primary sources of various kinds. Their scholarship is built on their skills in reading, analyzing, and reflecting upon primary sources pertaining to their subject of research. The weekly analyses you are doing for this course will help you become a better reader and writer.

Like other types of formal essay, each weekly analysis should have introduction, body, and conclusion. While you do need to provide a very brief summary of the document you choose, it should not upstage your analysis. While you should share your thoughts on the issues raised in the document, your WAPS cannot be a stream of consciousness. A good WAPS should achieve the following:

- Provide a brief summary of the content and context
- Identify the authorial intent and the targeted audience
- Identify author’s argument and evaluate its effectiveness
- Deduce the cultural/political/religious/social bias and value of the author and the intended audience
- Theorize what the community that produced it was like?
- Relate this document to the other documents you have read in this course

The best week analysis of primary source evaluates the aforementioned aspects in a balanced, well-informed and thoughtful manner, AND always stays within the word limit.

**Format**

- The title of the essay should be the title of the primary source you analyze
- Each WAPS must be between 275-300 words
- You must include a word count at the end of each WAPS
- Times New Roman, size 12, single spaced
### WAPS Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Accurately summarize the content and context of the document</td>
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<td>1.5</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify the authorial intent and the targeted audience</td>
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<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify the argument and evaluate its effectiveness</td>
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<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify the cultural/political biases and values of the author and</td>
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<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.25</td>
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<td>the intended audience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theorize about the society that produced it</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relate this document to the other course readings</td>
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<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Display correct spelling, good grammar and writing style</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respect the word limit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.25</td>
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</table>
**Weekly Analysis of Primary Source (WAPS): An Example**

“History of the Liu Song Dynasty (Song Shu) ca. 513 C.E.”

“History of the Liu Song Dynasty (Song Shu) ca. 513 C.E.” records the words of an envoy sent by King Bu of Wa to the Liu Song court. This envoy first pays fealty to the Chinese ruler, calling him “Sovereign Majesty” (9) and reminds the court of Wa’s military capability. Then he explains how the Korean state of Koguryo has defied law and asks for the title of “supreme commander” (10) of Wa and six Korean states, to encourage loyalty and defeat Koguryo. King Bu’s request is later granted for all but one of the countries he sought authority over. The author, Shen Yue, was a statesman; therefore, it appears that his primary purpose was to truthfully record the history of the Liu Song Dynasty. This is apparent in the very matter-of-fact way this document is written – it reads like court records and most of it, in fact, is a transcription of the envoy’s speech.

It is evident that at the time this document was written, there existed a hierarchy of kingdoms – the six Korean states answered to Wa, which answered to China. The envoy’s repeated vows of allegiance show Shen’s perception of the Chinese as being superior and deserving respect from their neighbors. In this respect, this document is most similar to other readings in SJT, SKT, and “The Xiongnu, Raiders from the Steppe.” Shen defines the government’s paramount priorities to be harmony, peace, and order, which justify the military campaign to bring order to the Koguryo region. There was also a pervasive belief that violence was necessary to achieve these priorities – “Inaction does not bring victory” (10). Furthermore, given the political turmoil in the region, Wa society was highly militarized – “The fighting men are in high mettle … none have fear of sword and fire” (10).

Word Count: 298
BOOK REVIEW (GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

WEIGHT: 150 points each
DUE DATE: Tuesday 10/20 and 12/08 @ 11:59 PM via Sakai (no late submission)

DESCRIPTION:

You are expected to write two critical book reviews. The first one is on Aihe Wang’s *Cosmology and Political Culture in Early China* and due on 10/20. The second one is on Christine Mollier’s *Buddhist and Taoism Face to Face* and due on 12/08. A book review is NOT a book report. It is advisable that you: 1. Consult Rampolla (Ch. 3b-3) and the handout “Do’s and Don’ts when Writing a Critical Book Review”; and 2. Address the following when you write up your critiques.

1. Identify the author and his/her credentials
2. Provide a brief summary of the subject, aim, and scope of the book
3. Outline the theses and biases of the book
4. Assess the author’s main contentions and evaluate his/her use of evidence
5. Identify and explain the book’s major strengths and weaknesses
6. Evaluate of the book’s place in the scholarly literature of its subject
7. Discuss on the features (sources, illustrations, indexes, etc) and accessibility of the book

FORMAT:

• Word limit: 800-1000 words
• You MUST include a word count at the end of your book review
• Fonts and Spacing: 12 point Times New Roman, double-space
• Make sure that you put the page number on the bottom center of each page
**Early China in the World**

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**BOOK REVIEW RUBRIC (GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)**

**Name:**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Basic analyses (80 points)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify the author and his/her credentials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accurately summarize the subject, aim, and scope of the book</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess the author’s main contentions and biases</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluate the author’s use of sources and evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explain the book’s major strengths and weaknesses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discuss on the features (sources, illustrations, indexes, etc) and accessibility</td>
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<th>Critical Reading (40 points)</th>
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<td>Assess the book’s place in the scholarly literature of its subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify and discuss the critical theory that informs the author’s methodology</td>
<td>20</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style &amp; Format (30 points)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The clarity of prose</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The effectiveness of overall structure</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word limit: 800-1000 words and the inclusion of a word count</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 point, Times New Roman, double spaced, and page number at bottom and centered</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL/GRADE (150 points)**

**COMMENTS**
THE ABSTRACT AND OUTLINE OF THE RESEARCH PAPER (GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

Due Date: Tuesday 12/01 on Sakai

Description:

1. The draft abstract
   An abstract is a summary of your research paper. It generally informs your readers of the following:
   • What is the title and topic of your research paper?
   • What question(s) this paper will address?
   • What are the current scholarly opinions on the topic?
   • What approach do you plan to use in order to get results? (e.g. analyzing primary sources, conducting interviews, collecting and interpreting statistical data, etc)
   • How will you frame your findings? In other words, which critical theory or methodology help you think about the topic and come up with the argument/hypothesis? (e.g. Empiricist, Marxist, psychological, Annals, sociological, anthropological, structuralist, post-modernist, etc.)
   • What is your hypothesis/tentative argument?
   • What is the contribution of your research?

Format:
   • Word limit: 200-350 words
   • You must give the title of the research at the beginning of your abstract
   • You MUST include a word count at the end of your abstract
   • Fonts and Spacing: 12 point Times New Roman, single-spaced

2. An draft one page outline
   An outline is a “blueprint” or “plan” for your research paper. It helps you to organize your thoughts and arguments. A good outline can make conducting research and then writing the paper very efficient. Your outline page must include your:

   1. Thesis statement
   2. Major points/arguments indicated by Roman numerals (i.e., I, II, III, IV, V, etc.)
      • The first Roman numeral should be the “Introduction”. In the introduction portion of your paper, you’ll want to tell your reader what your paper is about and then tell what your paper hopes to prove (your thesis). So an Introduction gives an overview of the topic and your thesis statement.
      • The final Roman numeral should be your “Conclusion”. In the conclusion, you summarize what you have told your reader.
   3. Subsection of your major points, indicated by Arabic numerals (i.e., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc.)
   4. Subsection of the subsection, indicated by English alphabet (i.e., a, b, c, d, e, etc.)