

Jennifer Seltz, T.A.  
jseltz@u.washington.edu  
Mailbox, Smith 315  
Smith 214  
Office hours

Monday, 9:30-10:30  
Thursdays, 10:30-11:30  
and by appointment

HSTAA 135  
Fall 1998  
Sections AA & AD  
Friday 8:30 a.m.  
Friday 9:30 a.m.

**Purpose:** Sections are your chance to test out ideas in conversation and think about the course material from different angles. We will integrate the readings with lectures and discuss what you need to know and do to write meaningful papers and acceptable exams. If you skip section, your work and your grade will suffer.

**Preparation:** These small-group meetings are your chance to talk about and analyze new concepts as well as to ask questions about the material. It is very important that you do the reading and think critically about it before coming to section. Assess the source for bias; ask yourself what audience the author is writing for; try to figure out how the story told in the reading adds to or contrasts with what you are hearing in lecture and from other sources. Take notes on the reading, and be prepared to support your arguments with evidence from the text itself.

Most weeks, I will also circulate one or two preliminary discussion questions on the reading over e-mail by the Tuesday before section. You will need to respond over e-mail by Thursday at 8:00 p.m. with a paragraph addressing the discussion questions or raising questions of your own. We will base our discussion partially on these responses.

**Punctuality:** Come to section on time. Latecomers interrupt discussion and usually miss important announcements.

**Grading:** I will assess your performance in section based on your participation in discussion and your e-mail responses to discussion questions. I expect each student to make an effort to listen and respond to others' arguments. Shy students must make an extra effort to be sure to speak in class and to contribute their share to group activities. Students who have little difficulty expressing themselves must be sure they do not dominate discussions and should give others the first opportunity to speak.

**Additional requirement:** I would like to meet with each of you individually outside lectures and sections by the time the first paper is due (November 13). You do not have to prepare a question or bring in extra work, but this will be a good opportunity to talk about any questions you have about the class or individual assignments.

**Written work:** I have high standards for written work, but I am ready to help you with papers and exams by meeting to talk about any and all steps in the writing process. The Writing Center (in Smith 210C) is another source of help with history papers. Students can meet individually with a writing tutor and receive help on assigned papers from the planning stage through the final draft. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this service as well.

**Drafts:** I am happy to read drafts, up to three working days before the due date.

**Late papers:** Late papers will be penalized .5 grade points a day. If you absolutely must turn a paper in late, do your best to let me know about it as soon as possible.