

Sensorveiledning HIS2354/HIS4354

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 consumption and the history of consumer cultures). The topics for the abstracts (and thus term papers) have to be approved by the course leader before being submitted in week 10. 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 consumption between the late 19th century and the early 21st century. There is a wide range of possible research topics: students may want to work on a particular commodity and how it was consumed, but their papers may also cover the economic dimension of retailing, political debates on the regulation of consumption or the history of consumer activism as a contribution to social history. Historiographical debates and methodological considerations may be dealt with; 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 methodological 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 are discussed in the last class 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.