

HIS 2336/4336 History of 19th century exploration

Examination

The final examination is a term paper – based on the obligatory exposé – on the different stakes of either one expedition, or several expeditions in the same area.

Sensorveiledning

An excellent term paper formulates a relevant research question, which then remains in focus throughout the whole paper. An excellent paper provides answers to its research question and argues for these answers based on either (1) a detailed review of the historiography, showcasing how historians' approaches have evolved on a given topic, or (2) the analysis of first-hand historical sources. An excellent paper mentions and uses literature from the obligatory course literature ("pensum"), but also more specialised literature on the specific expedition analysed in the paper.

An excellent paper pursues its research question in a way that is thoroughly reflected in both methodological and theoretical terms and focuses on a relevant, well-defined empirical case, centred on either an expedition, an explorer, or a geographical area. It develops a discernible argument in a logical fashion and presents it lucidly, formulating an independent opinion. An excellent paper shows a good command of relevant historical facts. An excellent paper shows the ability to move confidently between generalisations and detailed analysis. An excellent paper is written in clear prose. It respects the allowed word count and is structured, formatted, and referenced in accordance with the discipline's standards.

Shortcomings in the engagement with relevant scholarly arguments, in the focus on a motivated research question, in theoretical and methodological reflection, in the coherence and focus of the argument, the presentation of the paper, the formulation of an independent, informed standpoint and the treatment of historical facts and sources are reasons to grade a paper lower than "excellent". A paper that fails in all these respects is graded as a "fail".