

Seminar Paper Guidelines

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Timeline and Deadlines

- Registration: by the end of the semester, or as specified in the seminar programme
- Concept note: as specified in the seminar programme
- Consultation: mandatory once the concept note has been submitted; further meetings as needed
- Submission of the paper: by the start of the semester after next, or by individual arrangement
- Feedback and grade: within six weeks of submission, or by arrangement
- Revision: only offered if the paper was graded as insufficient; the highest grade attainable on a revised version is 4.0

The Concept Note

- Length: approximately one page
- Content: brief sketch the topic, the state of research, the research question, and the intended sources/methodology

Use of AI Tools

- Permitted in principle
- Core academic skills – research, note-taking, analysis, and putting arguments into writing – cannot simply be outsourced to AI; they have to be practiced first-hand. It's worth attempting the work without AI assistance to begin with.
- If AI tools are used, a short reflection must be included, addressing:
 - What did the tool actually contribute?
 - What did I learn in the process?
 - What would I do differently next time?
- Follow the guidance in "Citing from AI"

See: dg.philhist.unibas.ch/.../kuenstliche-intelligenz/...chatbots

Length and Formatting

- Total length: 10-12 pages of running text
- The introduction (1-1.5 pages) should cover – typically in this order – the topic, the state of research, the guiding question, sources/methodology, and the structure of the paper
- Chapter structure: no more than two levels of hierarchy (e.g., Chapter 1.1, but not 1.1.1)
- Formatting: 12pt font, 1.5 line spacing, 2.5cm margins

Grading Criteria

- Originality of the research question in relation to the existing literature
- Originality of the source base (own archival research – not based solely on secondary literature)
- Appropriateness and reflective use of method, theory, and concepts
- Persuasiveness of the argument
- Overall structure, internal organization of chapters and paragraphs, readability
- Writing style, spelling, and punctuation
- Accuracy of the bibliographic references