

History 6400
Spring 2007
797-3791
nicholls@hass.usu.edu

Graduate Seminar

Prof. M. L. Nicholls
Main 310
Office Hours: MWF 11-12:30

This class will use Gabriel's Revolt in Virginia in 1800 to explore issues of historical interpretation, the evaluation of primary and secondary sources and the writing of history. All students registering for the course must have completed History 6000. Students must read Richard Godbeer, **Escaping Salem** before the first meeting of class and come prepared to discuss the book. You should also obtain a copy of Douglas Egerton **Gabriel's Rebellion** for use as the class progresses. While class time will be spent in discussion and to a great extent immersed in a collection of primary documents, each student will be required to write and submit a chapter of their thesis by the end of the semester. Your grade will be based half on your participation in class, one fifth on a critique you will write of another student's chapter, and the remainder on the chapter you submit. In short, this is a hands-on class aimed at immersing you in primary source analysis, professional criticism, and to move you on towards the completion of your thesis or Plan B.