

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Guide to improving learning

- All students have different strengths and weaknesses. It is therefore important that you take the initiative in reflecting on your own learning: on what you do well and, more importantly, on what you do less well. During the course of the year you should try to identify those study skills that you feel you need to improve and take steps to ensure improvement. The study guides will help you to do this.

How can I identify the skills I need to improve?

Step 1:

- Look at the history study skills outlined in the Aims and Objectives for your course. Which do you feel need developing, improving or up-dating in your case? Step 2 At specific points during the year you will be given feedback on seminar participation and on the assessed study skills tasks that you have completed by your seminar teachers. Look at this feedback: in what specific areas does your seminar teacher suggest that you need to improve your skills?

How can I continue to improve my study skills?

Step 1:

Understand what is expected of you (and why) in completion of particular tasks, and also the criteria by which your work will be assessed. (See the Study Skills Guides and the Assessment Sheets for the various study skills tasks).

Step 2:

Feedback on your coursework is given to you for a reason. Don't be afraid to ask your seminar teacher for further advice/explanation to make sure that you understand their feedback.

Step 3:

Re-visit your work. If your seminar teacher has suggested that your analysis of visual imagery from the early modern period was weak, for example, look back at the image in the light of your teacher's comments to see what you may have missed or misinterpreted. Think about how you can ensure not to miss or misinterpret vital visual clues in early modern imagery in future. For example, you might draw up a check-list of important things to look for, questions to ask or leave open etc.

Remember practice makes perfect (or at least better)! Repeat a task that you may not have done well the first time to improve your performance.