History 111

World History to 1500

September 22, 2020

Analysis Essay Assignment General Guidelines

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The first writing assignment for this class is a 4-5-page analysis of an assigned primary source document. The paper is due on Friday, September 25 by 5:00 p.m. It will count for 10% of the total assignment grade and must be submitted to both **turnitin and LiveText** **no later than 11:59 p.m. on the due date.**

**Papers not submitted to turnitin and LiveText will not be graded. Final grades on all papers are tentative until they have cleared turnitin.**

Late papers will be marked down one letter grade for each day late, including weekends. The **major objectives** of this assignment are:

• help students develop basic critical reading and analysis skills by close reading and interpretation of a primary source.

* help students demonstrate those skills while practicing written communication skills.

• help students gain insight into the historian’s craft while enhancing their

thinking and writing skills.

Your essay should incorporate (not simply list) the following elements:

• Who is the author?

• If an identifiable person, what is his or her background?

• What kind of text is it? Political? Historical? Satire? Fiction? Something else? A combination of genres?

• Who is the author’s audience? It is always possible, and in fact likely, that there will be more than one audience. You may list others, but focus your essay on what, in your view, is the most significant one and explain why.

• What does the document tell you about the wider society or broader social concerns?

• What is the thesis or main argument of the work? Based on your reading of the document and your knowledge of the society and time period being written about, do you detect any bias? Explain.

• Does the work do its job? In other words, are you convinced by the argument? Do you find the history accurate and informative? If it’s satire or fiction, are you entertained or enlightened? How might the *intended* audience have reacted to the work?

* In your work with the document, what did you as the reader/historian find most difficult about understanding/interpreting the document?

**FORM AND FORMAT**

• The document you use will usually be accompanied by an introductory essay, but you should do some background reading to establish a historical context for your source. Outside research is not required for this assignment, but I would strongly recommend that you consult your class textbook as a first step.

• Your paper is to be a ***minimum* *of 4 complete pages***. Papers shorter than 4 full pages will be considered incomplete and graded accordingly. The title page and bibliography do **not** count as part of the page total.

* Even if your paper uses only a single source (i.e. the document itself), supporting quotations are required and must be properly cited. For this paper, please use Chicago Manual or Turabian style – footnotes or endnotes -- for citations. (See the following website for the proper format.) <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/16/contents.html> -- this site may also be accessed through the University library website under Help and Tutorials. You will not be penalized for making an effort and getting it wrong, but I will take off for any in-text citations.
* Also, see **HOW TO: CHICAGO STYLE CITATONS** under the INFORMATION tab on BB. Still unsure? Ask me.

• Include a title page with the university’s name, paper title, course number and name, your name and the date.

• Papers are to be typewritten and double-spaced with 1-inch top, bottom, and side margins and a 12-point font. Pages should be numbered.

• Papers will be graded on form as well as content. Your essay should be organized, logical, contain a clear and rational thesis and a conclusion that reinforces the thesis. Spelling, grammar, proper punctuation, and overall organization will be taken into account.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (PLAGIARISM)**: See the course syllabus for the policy on plagiarism.