

## History Inquiry Essay/Project

One essay/project will be assigned per term. You will decide on topics contained or related in the term's scope and sequence, the format for each (it is open to all possible imaginative constructs!), and the due dates. Planning dates and a term end-date will be provided. The assessment is formative, meaning that I want to have you do as many iterations/revisions as is possible. This process will give you the opportunity to achieve the best mark you can. All assignments can be revised until they meet both yours and my expectations, so it is advised not to set due dates too late in the term.

- *To emphasize, when I say, "open format", this applies to structure. Your project need not be a single, seamless paper.*
- *You could divide it up into **parts**, with separate topics.*
- *You are welcome to use the **DBI format with the HPCs** (I will present these in the first week).*
- *You might use the **T/C format**. You might consider text-based responses, i.e., choosing chapter questions to structure responses.*
- *Open format also allows for visual/graphic responses, if you balance the art with written critical response.*
- *You may also want to work in groups; this is awesome as long as you understand that the project is equivalent to the individual page expectation (e.g., each individual is responsible for minimum 6 page response therefore a 2 person project would need to be equivalent to 12 pages.*
- *I suggest the following site for how to cite sources:*  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)
- *You must use at least 4-5 sources, **two** of which must be primary sources.*

A good place to start with is the "Modern History Sourcebook":

<http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/modsbook.asp>

Another great site is the Avalon Project: <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/>

And please use your library resources!

**Creation Process:** Select the following in sequence: Theme, Thesis, Research and Thought, Draft, and Assessment. Since the process is formative there might be more than one draft depending on feedback.

**Specifications:** Thesis can be designed to reflect any theme and integrate any topic from the year. It is **Open Format: you decide on the format!** Essay/Project final copy length is **equivalent to 6-8 pages long**, typed, single-sided, 1.5 spaced (if typed, TNR), with source citations and bibliography. If project format is selected, use the length in terms of equivalency and script/graphic components must be balanced. You can use either MLA, APA, or Chicago; whatever citation style you choose, keep consistent. "Equivalent" means that whatever format you decide to adopt, the final length must be reflective of what a 6-8-page paper would be. This is negotiable.

Due Date: **your decision if it is on or before the final due date. Any that are received on that date will not have revision opportunity.**

**Class Assignments:** There are two types of class assignments: a) secondary source critical responses (CRs), and b) primary source/document-based inquiry (DBIs). You will select topics for these assignments from the selected studies I don't present in class.

For the DBIs, I suggest using the **Historical Process Constructs** (see attached) are designed shape the nature of your response and the nature of your self-assessment. You will learn how to analyze primary and secondary sources (historical evidence) with reference to **reliability, bias and point of view, and corroborating and conflicting evidence**. These constructs are based on the following essential historical thinking skills:

1. *historical significance*
2. *primary source evidence*
3. *continuity and change*
4. *cause and consequence*
5. *historical perspectives,*
6. *ethical dimensions of historical interpretations*

I argue that there are important things missing from the list. I think you should **care** about what you are investigating. I think it should be something that has the potential to impact or effect your life today and, in the future, i.e., something that you might use to **change** your world today and tomorrow. And, most importantly, I think an explicit reference to **imagination** is missing. If we cannot use imagination, I do not think we really go anywhere meaningful.