

Essays

Essay Questions:

Each essay should be organized as a standard essay with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Essays should also have a clearly articulated argument (or thesis statement) in the introduction. This is not a novel; it should not have a twist ending. For more information on organizing and writing historical essays, see my page on writing historical essays. Essays should cite a source in each paragraph (excluding the introduction and conclusion). Citations should follow a standard style (Turabian, Chicago, MLA, APA, etc.) and remain consistent with that citation style. Pro hint: Zotero will create standard citation formats for you.

For information on writing essays, see my [page on writing historical essays](#). It also has information on citing sources

Essay #1 (Due Mar. 10 @ Midnight) :

Write an essay that places The First Crusade and The Albigensian Crusade in conversation with one another. The essay should make a distinct argument. Perhaps the argument indicates a common variable that drove the religious violence in both circumstances, or the argument demonstrates a major difference in motivation that caused a variation in the way violence played itself out in the two different circumstances. This essay differs from a compare and contrast essay that discusses multiple similarities and differences. Instead, it asks students to construct a historical argument that explains some similarity, difference, or common experience in how or why religious violence broke out, expressed itself, or was overcome to coexist. Note that the essay should not do all of these but only one. These are only a few possibilities.

Remember historical arguments should tell the history, the story of the events. Place the two crusades in their context to support the argument. While the essay should be focused on proving its argument, contextual information should demonstrate that the student fully understands the course material. In addition, students are NOT permitted to use outside material. Throughout this course, we have read many sources that provide ample arguments and content to articulate a substantive historical argument.

The essay should be a MINIMUM of 1000 words and cite at least four (4) separate sources.

Essay # 2 Due April 24 @ 11:59am:

Write an essay that places the French Wars of Religion and Christian-Ottoman wars in conversation with one another. The essay should make a distinct argument. Perhaps the argument indicates a common variable that drove the religious violence in both circumstances, or the argument demonstrates a major difference in motivation that caused a variation in the way violence played itself out in the two different circumstances. This essay differs from a compare and contrast essay that discusses multiple similarities and differences. Instead, it asks students to construct a historical argument that explains some similarity, difference, or common experience in how or why religious violence broke out, expressed itself, or was overcome to coexist. Note that the essay should not do all of these but only one. These are only a few possibilities.

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The essay should be a MINIMUM of 1000 words and cite at least four (4) separate sources.

Essay Rubric

Criteria	5 pts.	4 pts.	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt
Content	Essay demonstrates a mastery of the class content	Essay demonstrates a good understanding of the class content	Essay demonstrates a basic understanding of the content	Essay demonstrates a limited understanding of the content	Essay demonstrates little to no understanding of the content
Organization	Essay is well organized and clearly planned out. Contains strong topic sentences that align closely with the content.	Essay is mostly organized and easy to follow. Topic sentences and content mostly align	Essay is somewhat organized and/or somewhat difficult to follow	Essay is poorly organized and difficult to follow	Essay is not organized and very difficult to follow

Criteria	5 pts.	4 pts.	3 pts	2 pts	1 pt
Writing	Essay is written exceptionally well and clearly articulated. No errors in grammar or spelling.	Essay is written well. It is fairly clear. Contains very few errors in grammar or spelling	Essay is written with a few errors in grammar and spelling. There are times when clarity is an issue.	Essay is written with several errors in grammar and spelling. Clarity of the message is an issue.	Essay is written with many errors in grammar and spelling and the message is lost frequently.
Citations	Essay contains proper citations and references. Each body paragraph contains at least one citation.	Essay contains proper citations and references, but not all body paragraphs contain citations. Or vice versa	Essay is contains citations but they follow an inconsistent pattern. Not all body paragraphs contain citations	Essay contains very few citations and references. They do not follow discernible pattern	Essay does not include any citations or references.
Argument & Persuasion	Essay contains a strong and substantive argument in the introduction that synthesizes class material and is persuasively substantiated.	Essay contains a strong and substantive argument in the introduction that synthesized the class material, but it is not persuasively substantiated throughout the essay.	Essay contains a weak argument in the introduction or the argument is primarily summary, but it is substantiated throughout the essay	Essay contains a weak argument and is not substantiated throughout the essay.	Essay lacks a discernible argument
Meets Requirements	Essay meets all requirements of the assignment	N/A	N/A	N/A	Essay does not meet all requirements of the assignment

Grade Correlation

Score	Grade
30-29	A+ (98)
27-26	A (95)
25	A- (92)
24	B+ (88)
23-22	B (85)
21-20	B- (82)
19	C+ (78)
18-17	C (75)
16-15	C- (72)
14	D+ (68)
13-12	D (65)
11-10	D- (62)
9	F (58)
8-7	F (55)
6-4	F (50)
