World History Paper

Description

For this particular assignment, students will be writing on a topic that is broad enough socially, economically, and/or politically that it can lend itself to various interpretations by different historical authors. The topic should relate to an era we are studying in the school year. As such, the focus of your paper should be on history between the years 400 CE to the modern era. Such topics could be on the Medieval Europe, Medieval Asia, Imperialism, etc.

The paper will be completed in phases, so that by the time April comes around each student will have a well-developed research paper.

Phase 1: Content

- Topic Selection
  o Students must choose a topic no later than Friday, September 19th.
    ▪ Worth two HW grades.
    ▪ Must be submitted in the proper format and should include the topic, and why you chose that topic.
    ▪ Should be about 1 paragraph long.

- Historical Content
  o This is the narrative portion of your essay. It should be a general explanation of your topic.
  o Must be submitted in the proper format (an actual essay)
  o Should be between 800-1000 words
  o Draft due on Friday, October 24th.
  o This is worth 1 Quiz/Essay Grade

- Comparative Analysis
  o This is usually what makes some essays stand out from the rest of the pack. In addition to your historical content, I would like for you to use some comparative history.
  o Option 1: Compare on a global scale
    ▪ Example: If you are writing about Southern identity in the colonial era, your comparative portion could be Spanish settler identity in Spanish America (the same era).
  o Option 2: Compare different eras.
    ▪ Example: If you are writing about Southern identity in the colonial era, your comparative portion could be Southern identity in the antebellum period (same geographic area)
  o There are more options, but this allows you to be more creative.
Phase 2: Historiography

- Any academic of note will always research the historiography of a given topic. The research will involve the identification of 3-4 historians in order to compare their different insights and interpretations on a given topic of your choice. By comparing the differences and similarities from three distinct perspectives, students will be involved in a level of analysis that goes beyond plain narrative.
- Should be between 800-1000 words
- **Draft due on Wednesday, January 15th.**
  - This is worth 1 Quiz/Essay Grade

Phase 3: Final Draft

- This is where everything you have worked on comes together.
- The final result should be between 2000-3500 words.
- **Draft due on Tuesday, February 10th**
  - This is worth 2 Quiz/Essay grades
- **Final Paper due on Thursday, March 12th**
  - This is worth 1 Test/Project Grade

Presentations

During the two weeks after the paper is turned in, the students will present their papers to the class. As with the essay, grades will be assigned based on the rubric posted on the class webpage. Sign-up sheets for presentation dates will be passed around as the date approaches. Each presentation is worth 2 Quiz/Essay Grades.