

History Skills Workshop 242: History of the Middle East

Guide to writing your term paper

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Term Paper Rules

1. No more than 2000 words.
2. Make it **normal looking**: double-spaced, regular 1-inch margins, and use a normal font with normal size (12 point?). You can be somewhat creative in your writing – not in the way it looks.
3. Make sure you use **footnotes** and include a **bibliography**.
 - a. Your footnotes should use one citation style consistently.
 - b. Your bibliography should the same style consistently.
 - c. I recommend Turabian or Chicago Style for both (see below).
4. Cover page with all the **usual info** (your name, student number, “HISW 242”, and date).
5. Use a minimum of four (4) books and/or articles **beyond course readings**. And don’t use lectures as a source. This isn’t a hard and fast rule but the point is for you to do independent research.
6. This is a history course so don’t forget that all papers must be grounded in the **history** of the subject you have chosen!

Term Paper Questions

There are eleven topics you can choose from. Alternatively, you can come up with your own topic. If you are, say, a criminology student, consider a topic on the history of crime; likewise if you're a science major you could do something on the history of science in the Islamic world. You **must** email the instructor if you are doing your own topic!

Question 1: "What were the consequences of the Black Death on the Islamic empires of the Middle East in the 14th century?" **or** "What were the consequences of the Third Plague pandemic on the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century?"

Question 2: "The Ottoman Empire has long been described as being in a state of 'decline' throughout the long 19th century. Why has it been written about like this? Is it a useful or apt way of thinking about this period?"

Question 3: "In what ways did the Middle East peace treaties of World War I contribute to the creation of many of the present-day problems of the region? Consider aspects of geography, and/or nationalism, and/or ethnicity, as well as political order – the League of Nations – the Treaty of Sevres (1920), etc."

Question 4: "Describe the origins of present-day Islamism (Wahhabis, and/or 19th century reformists like Abduh, and/or The Muslim Brotherhood etc.) and the contexts which foster the growth of these religious movements."

Question 5: "Compare and contrast the Jewish and Arab (Palestinian) communities in Palestine and Jerusalem under British rule. What factors contributed to the emergence of the Israeli state in 1948?"

Question 6: "Why is/was the Middle East home to so many dictators/autocrats in the last century? Is there such a thing as a Middle East 'type' of leadership?"

Question 7: "What is the most lasting legacy of the 1967 'June' / 'Six Day' War?"

Question 8: "What caused the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran? Is the revolution finished?"

Question 9: "If one considers 1882-1948 as Britain's 'moment' in the Middle East, in what sense can 1948 to the present be considered the American equivalent?"

Question 10: "What happened to Arab nationalism? Was there ever such a thing?"

Question 11: "Discuss the historical antecedents to the January 2011 uprisings in the Middle East. What caused these uprisings?"

Term Paper Sources

This is a list suggested sources you might want to consider looking at while conducting research for your term paper. You need to use **FOUR** scholarly sources beyond your assigned class readings. Usually these are books or articles from academic journals. You don't have to use all or *any* of the sources below for your paper. These sources are relevant and important but that doesn't mean you can't do a great paper using other sources. This list is also not meant to replace the independent rooting out of sources that I expect you to do – but better use these sources than others of dubious scholarly value.

And please remember that if you have any questions about the legitimacy of a source (especially an internet source) or how to cite your sources please ask me or your TAs. I've listed these sources using the Chicago format, if that helps.

Journals to use during your research:

International Journal of Middle East Studies	The Middle East Journal	British Journal of Middle East Studies
Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East	American Historical Review	Iranian Studies
Journal of Palestine Studies	Israel Studies	Journal of Israeli History

Question 1:

“What were the consequences of the Black Death on the Islamic empires of the Middle East in the 14th century?” **or** “What were the consequences of the Third Plague pandemic on the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century?”

Possible sources:

Bulmuş Birsen. *Plague, Quarantines and Geopolitics in the Ottoman Empire*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. 2012. **[eBook on course reserves]**

Green, Monica Helen, ed. *Pandemic Disease in the Medieval World : Rethinking the Black Death*. Leeds, UK: Arc Humanities Press. 2019. **[eBook on course reserves]**

Varlik, Nükhet, ed. *Plague and Contagion in the Islamic Mediterranean*. Black Sea World Series. Cryodon: CPI Group, 2017. **[eBook on course reserves]**

Question 2:

“The Ottoman Empire has long been described as being in a state of ‘decline’ throughout the long 19th century. Why has it been written about like this? Is it a useful or apt way of thinking about this period?”

Possible sources:

Faroqhi, Suraiya. *The Later Ottoman Empire, 1603-1839*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. [eBook on course reserves]

Faroqhi, Suraiya. *Approaching Ottoman History: An Introduction to the Sources*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999. [eBook on course reserves]

Philliou, Christine May. *Biography of an Empire: Governing Ottomans in an Age of Revolution*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011. [eBook on course reserves]

Quataert, Donald. *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. [eBook on course reserves]

Quataert, Donald. “Ottoman History Writing and Changing Attitudes Towards the Notion of ‘Decline.’” *History Compass* 1, Iss. 1 (2003). <https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com.lib-ezproxy.concordia.ca/doi/epdf/10.1111/1478-0542.038>

Tucker, Ernest, ed. *The Middle East in Modern World History*. New York, NY: Routledge. 2019. [eBook on course reserves]

Other sources to consider (not on reserve):

Faroqhi, Suraiya. *The Ottoman Empire and the world around it*. New York: I.B. Tauris, 2004.

Lewis, Bernard. *The Emergence of Modern Turkey*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002 (or any edition).

Woodhead, Christine. *The Ottoman World*. New York: Routledge, 2012.

Zürcher, Erik Jan. *Turkey: A Modern History*. London: I.B. Tauris & Co, 2017 (or any edition).

Question 3:

“In what ways did the Middle East peace treaties of World War I contribute to the creation of many of the present-day problems of the region? Consider aspects of geography, and/or nationalism, and/or ethnicity, as well as political order – the League of Nations – the Treaty of Sevres (1920), etc.”

Possible sources:

Dawish, Aaded. *Arab nationalism in the twentieth century: from triumph to despair*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016. [eBook – email me for access].

Crozier, Andrew J. “The Establishment of the Mandates System 1919-35: Some Problems Created by the Paris Peace Conference.” *Journal of Contemporary History*, 14 (1979).

<https://journals-sagepub-com.lib-ezproxy.concordia.ca/doi/pdf/10.1177/002200947901400307>

Owen, Roger. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. London: Routledge, 2004. [eBook on course reserves]

Other sources to consider (not on reserve):

Antonius, George. *The Arab Awakening*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1946 (any edition or format).

Fromkin, David. *A peace to end all peace: the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the creation of the modern Middle East*. New York: H. Holt, 1989.

Khalidi, Rashid. *The origins of Arab nationalism*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1991.

Zürcher, Erik Jan. *Turkey: A Modern History*. London: I.B. Tauris & Co, 2017 (or any edition).

Question 4:

“Describe the origins of present-day Islamism (Wahhabis, and/or 19th century reformists like Abduh, and/or The Muslim Brotherhood etc.) and the contexts which foster the growth of these religious movements.”

Possible sources:

*Look at *The International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* (IJMES)

Appleby, R. Scott. “History in the Fundamentalist Imagination.” *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 89, No. 2. (2002).

<https://concordiauniversity.on.worldcat.org/oclc/5545602724>

Mitchell, Richard P. *The Society of the Muslim Brothers*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993. [eBook on course reserves]

Sanagan, Mark. *Lightning Through the Clouds: 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam and the Making of the Modern Middle East*. Austin TX; University of Texas Press, 2020. [pdf of chapters 1 & 2 on Moodle]

Other sources to consider (not on reserve):

Beinin, Joel, and Joe Stork, eds. *Political Islam: Essays from Middle East Report*. Berkeley: The University of California Press, 1997.

Eickelman, Dale F, and James P Piscatori. *Muslim Politics*. Princeton Studies in Muslim Politics. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1996.

Question 5:

“Compare and contrast the Jewish and Arab (Palestinian) communities in Palestine and Jerusalem under British rule. What factors contributed to the emergence of the Israeli state in 1948?”

Possible sources:

- *Look at *The Journal of Palestine Studies*, *Journal of Israeli History*, *IJMES*
- Cohen, Michael J. *The British mandate in Palestine: a centenary volume, 1920-2020*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2020. **[eBook – email me for access]**.
- Gelvin, James L. *The Israel-Palestine conflict: one hundred years of war*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014. **[eBook – email me for access]**.
- Kaplan, Eran, Derek Jonathan Penslar, and David Jan Sorkin, eds. *The Origins of Israel, 1882-1948: A Documentary History*. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2011. **[eBook on course reserves]**
- Muslih, Muhammad Y. *The Origins of Palestinian Nationalism*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1988. **[eBook on course reserves]**
- Penslar, Derek Jonathan. *Israel in History: The Jewish State in Comparative Perspective*. London: Routledge, 2007. **[eBook on course reserves]**
- Sanagan, Mark. *Lightning Through the Clouds: 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam and the Making of the Modern Middle East*. Austin TX; University of Texas Press, 2020. **[pdf of chapters 4 & 5 on Moodle]**

Other sources to consider (not on reserve):

- Farsoun, Samih K., *Palestine and the Palestinians: A social and political history*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2006.
- Laquer, Walter. *The Israel-Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1969. (Or newer editions).

Question 6:

“Why is/was the Middle East home to so many dictators/autocrats in the last century?
Is there such a thing as a Middle East ‘type’ of leadership?”

Possible sources:

- Batatu, Hanna. “Political Power and Social Structure in Syria and Iraq” in Samih K. Farsoun. *Arab society: continuity and change*. New York: Routledge, 2013. **[pdf of chapter on Moodle]**
- Marr, Phebe. *The Modern History of Iraq*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2017. **[eBook on course reserves]**
- Owen, Roger. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. London: Routledge, 2004. **[eBook on course reserves]**
- Tibi, Bassam. “A Typology of Arab Political Systems,” in Samih K. Farsoun. *Arab society: continuity and change*. New York: Routledge, 2013. **[pdf of chapter on Moodle]**
- Tucker, Ernest. *The Middle East in Modern World History*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2019. **[eBook on course reserves]**

Other sources to consider (not on reserve):

- Hourani, Albert, Philip S. Khoury, and Mary C. Wilson, eds. *The Modern Middle East: A Reader*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2004.

King, Stephen J. *The New Authoritarianism in the Middle East and North Africa*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009.

Wedeen, Lisa. *Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric and Symbols in Contemporary Syria*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

Question 7:

“What is the most lasting legacy of the 1967 ‘June’/ ‘Six Day’ War?”

Possible sources:

* There are lots of directions to take this. See work by Michael Oren, Tom Segev, Abba Ebban’s Speech to the United Nations (and Norman Finkelstein on Ebban’s speech), Gershom Gorenberg...

Gelvin, James L. *The Israel-Palestine conflict: one hundred years of war*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014. **[eBook – email me for access]**.

Shlaim, Avi, and William Roger Louis. *The 1967 Arab-Israeli War: Origins and Consequences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012. **[eBook on course reserves]**.

Tessler, Mark. *A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009. **[pdf of chapter 6 on Moodle]**

Other sources to consider (not on reserve):

Farsoun, Samih K., *Palestine and the Palestinians: A social and political history*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2006.

Laquer, Walter. *The Israel-Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1969. (Or newer editions).

Question 8:

“What caused the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran? Is the revolution finished?”

Possible sources:

* Look for Nikki Keddie or Juan Cole books on Iran (there are lots of them).

Abrahamian, Ervand. *Khomeinism: Essays on the Islamic Republic*. Berkeley: The University of California Press, 1993. **[Online: <http://ark.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/ft6c6006wp/>]**

Abrahamian, Ervand. *Iran Between Two Revolutions*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982. **[eBook on course reserves]**

Farsoun, Samih K, and Mehrdad Mashayekhi. *Iran: Political Culture in the Islamic Republic*. London: Routledge, 2005. **[eBook on course reserves]**

Other sources to consider (not on reserve):

Ghani, Sirius. *Iran and the Rise of Reza Shah: From Qajar Collapse to Pahlavi Rule*. London: I.B. Tauris, 1998.

Question 9:

“If one considers 1882-1948 as Britain’s ‘moment’ in the Middle East, in what sense can 1948 to the present be considered the American equivalent?”

Possible sources:

* Be careful about relying on non-Academic sources. For instance, Dexter Filkins’s “The Forever War” is great but it shouldn’t be your main source. When in doubt ask.

Lockman, Zachary. *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2004. **[eBook on course reserves]**

Marr, Phebe. *The Modern History of Iraq*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2017. **[eBook on course reserves]**

Owen, Roger. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. London: Routledge, 2004. **[eBook on course reserves]**

Tucker, Ernest. *The Middle East in Modern World History*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2019. **[eBook on course reserves]**

Other sources to consider (not on reserve):

Hourani, Albert, Philip S. Khoury, and Mary C. Wilson, eds. *The Modern Middle East: A Reader*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2004.

Lesch, David W. *The Middle East and the United States: A Historical and Political Reassessment*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1999.

Question 10:

“What happened to Arab nationalism? Was there ever such a thing?”

Possible sources:

* IJMES (41, 2009) contains four short but good essays (“pensées”) on Arab nationalism: <https://www-cambridge-org.lib-ezproxy.concordia.ca/core/journals/international-journal-of-middle-east-studies/issue/8B3E47E599B60A6AD171E96B7271E2EA>

Hourani, Albert, “Arab Nationalism,” in *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 1798-1939*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1983. **[pdf of chapter on Moodle]**

Dawish, Aaded. *Arab nationalism in the twentieth century: from triumph to despair*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016. **[eBook – email me for access]**.

Owen, Roger. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. London: Routledge, 2004. **[eBook on course reserves]**

Wein, Peter. "Introduction: A critique of Arab nationalism" in *Arab nationalism: the politics of history and culture in the modern Middle East*. New York: Routledge, 2017. **[pdf of chapter on Moodle]**

Other sources to consider (not on reserve):

Antonius, George. *The Arab Awakening*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1946 (any edition or format).

Hourani, Albert, Philip S. Khoury, and Mary C. Wilson, eds. *The Modern Middle East: A Reader*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2004.

Hourani, Albert. *A History of the Arab Peoples*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002.

Khalidi, Rashid. *The origins of Arab nationalism*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1991.

Question 11:

"Discuss the historical antecedents to the January 2011 uprisings in the Middle East. What caused these uprisings?"

Possible sources:

There are lots of books published about these events in the last decade – many available online – just make sure the book has been published by a reputable publisher. Also, for background, see sources for questions 1-8?

Question 12:

Your own topic! You'll have to email me if you want to do a topic not explicitly outlined here, but there are lots of different things you could do:

Maybe you want to look at the environmental history of Ottoman Empire? Take a look at: Mikhail, Alan. *Nature and Empire in Ottoman Egypt: An Environmental History*. Cambridge U.K.: Cambridge University Press: 2013.

Or you want to look at the way the Middle East has been perceived in, say, the United States? Lockman, Zachary. *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2004. **[eBook on course reserves]**

Peterson, Luke Mathew. *Palestine-Israel in the Print News Media: Contending Discourses*. London: Routledge, 2014.

Said, Edward W. *Orientalism*. London: Penguin, 2003. (any edition)

Said, Edward W. *Covering Islam: How the Media and the Experts Determine How We See the Rest of the World*. New York: Vintage Books, 1997.

How to get an A, Part I: Proper Citations

Ok truthfully this won't *specifically* get you an A, but it will help you not fail and it might save you from getting booted from school (please don't get booted from school).

The theory

One of the things you will be graded on is the proper use of citations: both footnotes and a bibliography. A couple points of explanation:

If you are quoting something from a book – literally copying what something says word for word – you need to put that text in quotation marks **AND** you need to cite where those word come from. Quoting things with proper citation is totally fine, but try to do it rarely. You're being graded on your own research and writing skills; not your ability to copy text.

It is one of the foundational practices of history writing to cite your sources for information. It's how historians know you are not making something up (at least about the source) and that your evidence for an argument says what it says. Not doing this properly as a student is bad – it can get you into a lot of trouble; not doing it properly as a historian is extra bad – it can also get you into a lot of trouble *and* you will no longer be considered a historian.

So that's the theory: don't make the reader of your term paper (or tweet, or newspaper article, or book etc.) think something is coming out of *your* brain if it is actually from someplace else.

The practice

You are, of course, students first and foremost so I just want you to get used to citing where you are getting information. Here is what I want...

A footnote for anything you are directly quoting or anything you are paraphrasing from someplace else. Both look like this:

it seems the Mandatory authorities were somewhat confused about how to classify the confrontation. The official communiqué from the British in the aftermath claimed the dead were bandits or brigands¹³⁰

The response from the nationalist leadership was equally underwhelming. The Istiqlalist Akram Zu'aytir is quoted in the press excoriating the mainstream leadership:

Why did the nation stand on one side regarding the death of al-Qassām, and you stood on the other? Why did you not attend the funeral? Where were the goodwill messages from the Grand Mufti, from Rāghib al-Nashāshībī [...] and Ḥusayn al-Khālida¹³¹

¹²⁸) Ibid.

¹²⁹) *Palestine Post*, 21 and 22 November 1935.

¹³⁰) *Palestine Post*, 22 November 1935.

¹³¹) *Jami'a al-'Arabiyya*, 22 November 1935. They did attend the 40th day anniversary celebrations of al-Qassām's death in January 1936, and made emphatic speeches celebrating

The first is a paraphrase – I'm not directly quoting the official communiqué. The second is a direct quote (in this case the journal's style asked for it to be double-indented instead of just quotation marks around the text, but you can just use the quotation marks). Both get footnotes.

This can be a complicated thing – what to cite and what not to cite – and I again urge you to over-cite. Simple facts don't need citations (in which year the Islamic Revolution in Iran happened, for instance) but if something comes from a source you should cite it. And a general rule of thumb is that it's *always* better to over-cite in your work than under-cite.

These are what footnotes are for.

The bibliography comes at the end of your paper and just lists (in alphabetical order) all of the sources you used in your paper. A bibliography is much easier and looks something like this:

226 Bibliography

Barhum, Mahmud. *Qamus al-Qara al-Filastiniyya ibbana al-Intidab al-Baritani*. Amman: Dar al-Karmil, 1990.

Baron, Beth. *The Orphan Scandal: Christian Missionaries and the Rise of the Muslim Brotherhood*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2014.

Al-Bash, Ahmad Mustafa. *Tirat Hayfa: Karmaliyya al-Judhur, Filastiniyya al-Intima'*. Damascus: Dar al-Shajara, 1998.

Batatu, Hanna. *Syria's Peasantry, the Descendants of Its Lesser Rural Notables, and Their Politics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1999.

For both your footnotes and bibliography I suggest you use the format from the *Chicago Manual of Style* ("Chicago" style for short). As quick-access tool, here is how to cite the two types of sources I expect you'll use most in your term paper – a single-authored book, and a journal article:

Footnote for a book with a single author:

1. Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005), 8.

[Note: the "8" is the page number for whatever piece of information I'm citing.]

Bibliography entry for a book with a single author:

Quataert, Donald. *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Footnote for a journal article:

1. Donald Quataert, "Ottoman History Writing and Changing Attitudes Towards the Notion of 'Decline,'" *History Compass* 1, Iss. 1 (2003): 8.

[Note: the first "1" is usually the journal's volume number, followed in this case by the "issue" number, but usually it's the journal's "number" that comes next. The "8" is the page number for whatever piece of information I'm citing.]

Bibliography entry for a journal article:

Quataert, Donald. "Ottoman History Writing and Changing Attitudes Towards the Notion of 'Decline.'" *History Compass* 1, Iss. 1 (2003): 1-9.

[Note: the "1-9" are the page numbers for the whole article.]

Here is the link from the Concordia library that will give you an example of how to cite almost any other kind of source – including others you might use, like edited books or chapters of books from different authors. When in doubt, consult this link:

https://www-chicagomanualofstyle-org.lib-ezproxy.concordia.ca/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

How to get an A, Part II: A Brief Style Guide

Ok truthfully this *also* won't necessarily get you an A, but it will get you much closer to a good grade than a bad one!

The DOs and DON'Ts of writing decent papers

- Before you write, DO organize your points.
- DO feel free to use subheadings if you think it will help your reader understand what you are saying. Lots of professors don't like subheads – I much prefer well-organized papers.
- DON'T use secondary sources that are much older than you. (Try to keep it in the 1990s and later, *unless* it's an important source like George Antonius).
- DO reread your paper at least three times. Read it once just for typos and grammar. If you're really smart you'll have someone else read it too.
- DON'T use big words unless you're sure you know what they mean and that you're using them correctly.
- DO capitalize things that do need capitals (President, Egypt, Israel, United Nations) and DON'T capitalize things that don't need capitals.
- DO use footnotes – DON'T use endnotes.
- DO use proper formatting: 2.54cm/1 inch margins, 11 or 12 point double-spaced fonts like Arial or Times New Roman and not **comic sans serif**.
- DON'T use colloquialisms (u know what I mean lol!?)

Grammatical points that sometimes annoy readers:

I have an embarrassing writing tick: in emails and texts I typically forget the difference between “its” and “it’s” and will often write the wrong one and not notice it when I quickly reread what I’ve written. These habits are totally normal – we all have them – but we should work to overcome them in our writing.

Some common ones that might afflict your papers are listed below. Before you print out the final paper, hit ctrl+f and search your document for these words and make sure you are using them correctly. It will take less than ten minutes (even if there are a lot of them) and will probably save you from losing marks.

It's = "it is"
Its = is possessive

You're = "you are"
Your = is possessive

Their = is possessive
They're = "They are"
There = everything else. Think "over there..." or
"there are..."

Grading Rubric

This is the rubric that will be used when grading your term paper. It is based loosely on the rubrics used elsewhere in the History Department. The actual "Grade" distribution is subject to change and is meant only to give you an idea of typical weights.

Category	Grade
Language & Style: Is the style of language used appropriate? Is the use of language (including grammar and punctuation) correct? Are sources properly cited? Have the formal requirements of the paper (page numbers, line spacing, word limits, etc.) been met?	/ 10
Comments:	
Structure/Organization: Is the organization of the material effective and suitable to the nature of the assignment? Are parts of the assignment missing or difficult to find? Is there a clear relationship between your introduction, body, and conclusion?	/ 10
Comments:	
Research: Have you chosen good sources? Have you read and understood them? Are you using the sources carefully and critically?	/ 30
Comments:	

<p>Argument (Intro & Conclusion): Do you have an argument (ask yourself: what is the point of your paper)? Is your argument clear and well-made, using relevant evidence effectively?</p>	/ 20
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p>Analysis (Body of the paper): How do you support your argument? Does your paper flow from one supporting argument/piece of evidence to the next? Do you demonstrate an understanding of the relationship among material obtained from different sources?</p>	/ 30
<p>Comments:</p>	

Grading norms in the History Department

A =
Superior work – of honours quality – in both content and presentation. The work answers all components of a question. It demonstrates clear and persuasive argument, a well-structured text that features solid introductory and concluding arguments, and examples to illustrate the argument. Few, if any presentation errors appear.

B =
Better than average in both content and presentation. The work is clear and well structured. Minor components of an answer might be missing, and there may be fewer illustrations for the argument. Some minor but noticeable errors in presentation may have interfered with the general quality of the work

C =
This work demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the material. Ideas are presented in a style that is at least somewhat coherent and orderly. Occasional examples are provided to support arguments. Presentation errors that affect the quality of the work are more apparent than in B work. Some components of a question may have been omitted in the response.

D =

The work demonstrates only a basic grasp of the material. Organization and substance are not clear in the response. Few, if any, examples are provided to illustrate argument. Major components of a question might have been neglected; and major presentation errors hamper the work

F =

This work demonstrates an inadequate grasp of the material. The work has major errors of style; and provides no supporting illustration for argument. Ideas are not clear to the reader. The work lacks structure.

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
90-100	A+	4.30
85-89	A	4.00
80-84	A-	3.70
77-79	B+	3.30
73-76	B	3.00
70-72	B-	2.70
67-69	C+	2.30
63-66	C	2.00
60-62	C-	1.70
57-59	D+	1.30
53-56	D	1.00
50-52	D-	0.70
0-49	F/FNS	0