

History 1112: American History I (United States To 1865)
Georgia Highlands College
West Georgia ATP

Summer 2006

TERM PAPER GUIDE

Term Paper

There will be one paper due on 18 July 2006 preferably in class. This will be an 10 page paper on an aspect of United States History before 1865. This can be an event, a person, theme/topic, or a place. Papers handed in after 5:00 PM on 18 July will be deducted 10 points per day.

The Topic

The topic for the paper can be on any subject that relates to American history up to 1865. This can be an event (election, battle, campaign), place (city, state, region, Jamestown, New England), person or people (Thomas Jefferson, Casimir Pulaski, slaves, Pilgrims, Cherokees), or topic (How the French and Indian War was a prelude to the American Revolution).

The instructor is available to discuss ideas, suggest topics to fit your interest, and methods to assist the student in the goal of the assignment. A topic is due by 8 June 2006. This is necessary to allow the student ample time to research.

The Bibliography

The bibliography is a listing of sources you will use for paper. It is required that you use a variety of sources for your paper. These must include books, academic journals, and historical records. Some of these are on line and often searchable such as JStor (for academic journals) or the various databases on Galileo. Both available from the library and from home using the password issued from the library for access. Learn these as they will help no matter what you major is in college.

Internet sources will be of limited acceptability for the paper. While this is a great source it is too often over used and abused. One skill in college is research methods. Therefore, there are heavy restrictions on what can be used from the internet. See the table below for the approved and not approved list. If you have a question on a website then contact the instructor with either a URL for the site or a print out of the pages in question.

Approved Sites

Sites ending in:

.gov

.mil

Galileo list of databases from UWG library

Sites listed in Conlin textbook

Sites presented to instructor that were approved

Not Approved Sites

wikipedia.org and similar user donated material sites with questionable nature

Not Approved Sites (with occasional exceptions)

Google books (unless hard copy cannot be secured)

You must have a minimum of **five sources** for your paper. The **limit on internet sources is ¼ of the bibliography**. For example if you have two internet sources you must have six other non-internet sources. Each internet source over the limit will be 5 points off the final grade.

A copy of a working bibliography is due 27 June. You can expand on this after you submit it but it must meet the minimal requirements (5 sources, no more than ¼ internet sources – ie. with a minimum of sources you can have no more than one Internet source).

The Draft

A draft is not required to be submitted before the final paper, however, it is strongly encouraged. Those that have submitted draft papers in the past have done well on the final draft. Drafts will be accepted by e-mail or hard copy up to 14 July to have time to read and pass them back before the final is due.

The Final Draft

The final draft is due 18 July by 5:00 PM, preferably it should be handed in class. Only hardcopies are accepted.

Styles

College is a chance to learn new ideas and ways of working. Depending on your high school or other background you may or may not have used the various citation styles. For the purpose of this class, we will use the accepted style for the history field.

Turabian (also known as Chicago Manual) is used most commonly in the social sciences. There are several guides on-line for this. The link below is good for several styles. Just chop off the Turabian.html to go back up to the complete list which might be useful for other classes.

http://www.bucknell.edu/Library_Computing/Doing_Research/Citation_Guides/Turabian.html

Software

You may use what word processing software you wish, but it is highly encouraged to take advantage of the free software available as a fees paying student at West Georgia. SITS in Cobb Hall will give you a copy of software West Georgia has licensed for the use of the students. This package includes Word. With Word footnotes can easily be created which is essential for the citation style of the class. In the past some students not using Word experienced problems turning in assignments. For more information please visit <http://www.westga.edu/~mcastu/>.

Plagiarism

Avoid plagiarism by citing all quotes properly. You can quote all day long legally if you are giving credit in your paper where the words and thoughts originated. Plagiarism is when you try to give the impression these thoughts are your original work. Keep in mind that others might attempt to use the same source you are verbatim – this has happened in the past and several were caught. Remember the Acknowledgement of Academic Integrity Policy and the penalties for plagiarism. Some or all papers maybe required to be submitted to turnitin.com (<http://turnitin.com/static/home.html>). This service will detect suspicious copied statements not property cited.