Research Paper Draft and Revision

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English 3005W: Survey of American Literatures and Cultures I

Research Paper Draft
Due: Thursday, April 24

Please see the course syllabus under Writing Assignments for formatting requirements.

Instructions:
Write an essay of 6-8 pages in which you develop an argument about the ways in which two primary sources represent a specific theme (an idea, image, figure, issue, value, or belief) in American writings and cultures from 1492 to the Civil War. At least one of these primary sources must be a text assigned in this course from the Norton Anthology. In developing your argument, find, process, and respond to ideas in at least one researched secondary source.

In incorporating published ideas into your essay, you should clearly and concisely explain those ideas (through paraphrases and/or quotations), attribute those ideas to their author (following MLA style for documenting sources), and challenge or extend those ideas in your own claims about your selected primary sources. Secondary sources must be scholarly and peer-reviewed: they may be journal articles, chapters in anthologies, or books. You should look for secondary sources that address your primary sources and/or the idea, image, figure, issue, value, or belief that interests you. Indexes for searching for secondary sources, such as the MLA International Bibliography, may be accessed through the University of Minnesota Libraries website, http://www.lib.umn.edu. Some secondary sources are available in full-text online. Others may be available in hard copy only, in the stacks or periodicals room at Wilson Library, or through Interlibrary Loan. If you find a secondary source that you want to read but it is not available in full-text online, use the “Find It” function and/or MNCAT to determine the location and availability of the source. If a secondary source is unavailable both online and at Wilson Library, you may fill out and submit an Interlibrary Loan request form online (from the Libraries website) to have it delivered to you by email (if an article) or for pick-up on campus (if a book). You should allow yourself plenty of time to find, read, and select secondary sources.

Research Paper Revision
Due: Wednesday, May 14, 10:30 a.m.

Instructions:
Guided by the comments that you receive on the draft of your essay from your instructor and peers, revise the essay and submit the Revision for a grade in a Writing Portfolio that also includes the first draft returned from your instructor and three graded Responses.
Grading:

**Worth 10 points each:** (1) The paper includes a specific main argument or idea about the text/s that requires proving; (2) the ideas conveyed in analysis of the text/s move beyond the obvious; (3) textual evidence is interpreted fully and convincingly to support the main argument or idea; (4) the paper is well-organized—coherently and effectively—with logical transitions between ideas and paragraphs; (5) the argument evolves rather than remains static from the beginning to end of the paper.

**Worth 5 points each:** The paper (1) is academic in tone (it takes its subject and its reader seriously), (2) omits evaluation and judgment, (3) includes analytical claims about select quotations and paraphrases of the text/s, (4) has a creative and catchy title that reflects the main argument or idea, (5) is formatted according to MLA style (including MLA-style in-text citations), (6) includes a Works Cited page with end-of-text citations in MLA style, and (7) follows established rules of grammar, syntax, and spelling; (8) the paper’s sentences are well-crafted to communicate ideas to a reader: the language is clear, precise, and non-redundant; (9) the introduction is fully developed: it provokes the reader’s interest, situates the discussion within a context and in relation to a specific issue or question, identifies the text/s (by author and title) under analysis, and includes a main argument or idea to prove about the text/s; (10) the conclusion is fully developed: it clarifies the most complicated point to which the analysis has evolved, returns to the context, issue, or question laid out in the introduction, and provides a ‘send-off’ (a related but different question or idea) for your reader to ponder.

**Paper Presentation**

**Due:** As you have scheduled-- on Tuesday-Thursday, May 6-8, or Wednesday, May 14

**Instructions:**

Make a 5-minute presentation to the class on your research paper. This presentation must state (worth 20 points each): (1) the topic of your essay, (2) your argument about your selected primary sources, (3) a supporting example from each primary source, (4) how the analysis responds to the secondary source/s that you researched, and (5) the most significant problem or question that you are working or worked on in revising the essay.

Letter grades correlate to numeric scores as follows:

- **A+** = score of 97-99, **A** = score of 93-96, **A-** = score of 90-92
- **B+** = score of 87-89, **B** = score of 83-86, **B-** = score of 80-82
- **C+** = score of 77-79, **C** = score of 73-76, **C-** = score of 70-72
- **D+** = score of 67-69, **D** = score of 63-66, **D-** = score of 60-62
- **F** = score below 60

You earn 0 points if the assignment is plagiarized or if you do not submit the assignment.