

# BOOK REVIEW ASSIGNMENT

## The Assignment

Every unit, students will read one additional book to introduce major historiography in the field. History, as an ongoing academic field, is often a process of interpretation. Facts of the past have to be discovered, and analyses of the past need to be made. Not every historian will draw the same conclusions about major events in history, and not all historians will draw valid conclusions that you agree with.

For each of these books, ask yourself these core questions: what is the author arguing, and what evidence is the author using to support that argument? And then, the follow-up question: do you agree with his/her analysis and general thesis, or do you disagree? Why or why not?

Those two groups of questions make up the two core parts of the book review format: summary and critical analysis. These questions also get you started thinking like a historian, evaluating available evidence, and drawing reasonable conclusions about the past.

## The Requirements

Book reviews must be three (3) pages in length—no more or no less. Points will be deducted if reviews run too long or too short.

After a short introduction that situates the book in its proper historical and/or historiographical context (For example, what is going on in history that situates the subject of the book? Or, what other historical arguments in the field is the author responding to? Whichever you feel is most relevant to your review), you will divide your book review into two main sections: a summary of the author's main argument and the whole book itself (approx.. 1.3-1.5 pages) and a critical analysis of your own responding to the author's thesis (approx.. 1.3-1.5 pages).

Be sure to proofread carefully, employ precise language and word choice, and above all, support your ideas with evidence from the text. Cite any direct quotations using either MLA or Chicago. Include all header information on a separate title page, not at the top of page 1. Use 12 pt. Times New Roman and 1" margins throughout.

Book reviews must be submitted on Moodle (see the Unit tab) **before** the start of class on the day the paper is due.

Please check the grading rubric posted on Moodle for more specific information on each section and what I expect you to accomplish.