

Western Civilization I

Second Essay: The Crusades

The Crusades are often portrayed as a conflict between Christianity and Islam, a “clash of civilizations” or a “clash of religions.” At the very least, this is overly simplistic. In what ways did internal conflicts within Christendom and within the Islamic world contribute to these wars?

Your task is to write an essay answering this question, using primary sources from the crusades and relevant historical context from the textbook.

- Step 1: Examine Fulcher of Chartres’s account of Pope Urban II’s Speech at Clermont (Source Reader p. 200) as well as Textbook pp. 299-304, 332-4 for essential context. In what ways did the pope seek to remedy violence between feudal lords and knights? Write at least one paragraph. A paragraph should have a topic sentence that makes your argument, followed by evidence from the source (discussion of specific passages and a few quotes), as well as analysis (your own explanation and reasoning).
- Step 2: Examine Ibn al-Athir’s Muslim Perspective (Source Reader pp. 201-205). In what ways did fighting and distrust between groups of Muslims contribute to the crusaders’ victories? Write at least one paragraph in which you discuss textual examples of relevant background information.
- Step 3: Review the historical roots of animosity between western (“Catholic”) Christians loyal to the pope and Byzantine (“Orthodox”) Christians. In what ways did this animosity manifest itself in the crusades? Identify and analyze relevant passages in primary sources (Ibn al-Athir’s account and the Annals of Niketas Choniates) that answer this question. Write at least one paragraph.
- Step 4: Write a brief introduction that defines the topic and summarizes the main argument(s) you are making in the paragraphs you have already written. This introductory paragraph will be inserted at the beginning of the essay.
- Step 5: Write a brief conclusion that reinforces your main argument(s) without restating, word for word, sentences in previous paragraphs. Do not make any new arguments or introduce any new evidence here. This paragraph will go at the end of the essay.
- Step 6: Review the whole essay for mistakes and deficiencies and make necessary revisions. Pretend that you are publishing this work in a newspaper; it should reflect your best abilities.

Target Length: Your essay should be as close to **1,000 words** as possible, no more than 1,250 and no fewer than 750 words.

Format: The essay must be typewritten, double-spaced, with normal size-12 print, and 1-inch margins. Be sure to put your name and section number on the top of the first page. Include the word count at the end of the document.

Citations: Whenever you include information that is not common knowledge in your essay, you need to acknowledge where it came from, even if you are putting it in your own words. This should be done in the text of your essay using parenthetical citations (see below).

Quotations: You should endeavor to summarize information from the textbook and other secondary sources in your own words (followed by a citation, of course). It will probably be necessary to include a few precise quotations from primary sources in order to make a compelling argument. Whenever you include language verbatim from another text, it needs to be in quotation marks (“”) followed by a parenthetical citation.

Academic Integrity: Failure to cite your sources or include quotation marks where necessary may constitute plagiarism and will earn the paper an automatic F. For more information on plagiarism, consult <http://libguides.nvcc.edu/plagiarism>.

Collaboration: The paper that you submit must reflect your own work and nobody else's. Do not share finished papers or drafts with other students. *Even the slightest evidence of copying or inappropriate collaboration may result in a grade penalty or an F.*

Parenthetical Citations: A parenthetical citation typically includes the principal author's last name and page number. If there is no author, an abbreviated title (no more than 2-3 words) will do. The citation goes at the end of each sentence containing cited material, after any quotation marks and before the period. If you include author or title information in the text of the essay, just the page number is necessary in parenthesis. If numerous citations to the same source appear consecutively in a single paragraph, you may consolidate them. Below are some examples:

- If you are citing material from the textbook, a parenthetical citation looks like this (Hunt, 370).
- If you are citing material from a primary source in the source reader, it looks like this (Fulcher of Chartres, 200).
- If you are citing material from an editorial comment in the source reader, as opposed to the text of the primary source, it looks like this (Lualdi, 199).
- If you are citing material from a primary source on Blackboard, it looks like this (Donation of Constantine, 2). Note: There are no PDF sources that are directly related to this assignment.