

Historian's Craft

Paper #3:

Annotated Bibliography

Due Date: December 14



Paper Mechanics:

Title Page [Title, Course, Instructor, Author, Date]

Introductory essay, followed by at least 8 high-quality sources.

All sources should be cited in full, correct Chicago Style bibliography entry format. Consult Part II of Turabian's book for assistance in citing your sources.

Note: For this assignment, reference works, including online encyclopedias and Wikipedia, are NOT appropriate sources.

Submission Instructions: Since this is due on the final exam day (when we are not meeting in person), submit in TWO FORMS, both electronic:

– as an emailed Word document (.doc or .docx)

– uploaded and linked as a PDF file on your Wordpress ePortfolio by NOON 12/14

In this final unit, we've been exploring the broader profession of history: historiography and scholarship, filmmaking, public history, digital humanities ... and you have learned that many different professionals comprise the field and profession of history. Good historical research, we have learned, takes multiple perspectives into account and positions itself in ongoing scholarly conversations not only through empirical methods and primary source analysis but by employing historiography and theory.

Your final project will be to design a research inquiry and craft an annotated bibliography on a topic of your choosing. It can be related to one of your first two papers, or it can be an entirely new subject. If you are taking the capstone soon, you might think strategically about using the annotated bibliography assignment as a "pre-capstone" research exploration.

Your Annotated Bibliography should contain the following:

- An introductory essay (2 pages) laying out the topic, why it's significant, and what is your research approach.
- 3 (or more) primary sources
- 4 (or more) PRINT secondary sources, preferably university-press books or peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles. Even if accessed online, these still "count" as print sources.
- At least one website or online "born digital" resource

What makes this assignment different? Although you're doing the kind of research you'd do if you were writing a history research paper, *you're not actually writing the paper* itself. An annotated bibliography selects, curates, and comments on sources only. The "annotation" for each source is an explanatory paragraph setting the source within the context of your

research approach and explaining its significance and contribution to the topic.

*** Strong Historical Research Skills Include:**

Framing a reasonably-sized historical inquiry

Originality of thought and project design (i.e. not simply replicating another’s question or findings)

Taking multiple perspectives into account

Positioning yourself in an ongoing scholarly conversation with other historians (living or not), grasping the relevant historiography

Employing empirical methods and critical thinking (resisting “first impressions” or surface-level readings)

Analyzing primary sources deeply AND in accurate context

Where appropriate, applying theory

This project represents the culmination of your learning in this course and should demonstrate your acquired strong skills in identifying an appropriate topic, designing and conducting a research inquiry, and interpreting the sources you find using historical thinking.

Tip for the Future: If done well, this assignment makes a solid foundation for further research in the History minor/major and possibly even beyond. You may want to think about an annotated bibliography, for example, as the seed of your intended capstone work (senior research paper or senior thesis), or as something you could expand into a writing sample for graduate school applications. It will become a permanent part of your History ePortfolio.

Grading: Your project grade will be posted on Blackboard and I’ll email final comments and feedback to each member of the class separately. The assignment is worth **20% of your final grade.**

RUBRIC	DESCRIPTION	POINTS
8 Sources at Minimum	3 Primary, 3 PRINT Secondary, 1 Born Digital Secondary	8
But...	If Wikipedia is used as a source	0
Introductory Essay	States clear research question and thesis. Establishes significance of chosen topic. Frames your approach within existing scholarly literature. Written free of grammatical errors in elegant, logically organized prose	4
Bibliography	Correctly uses Chicago Style bibliography format, in accordance with Turabian’s guidelines	3
Overall Project Quality	Demonstrates strong historical research skills* (see box at left). Showcases your understanding of how to frame research inquiry and interpret sources found	3
	Represents your culmination of learning and thinking from entire semester	2
	TOTAL	20