History 307 Term Paper Assignment
The purpose of the term paper is for you to develop specific expertise in one of the areas of study for this course by exploring a topic in depth through research and writing. To begin, you will choose ONE topic area from the prompts provided below. Use the prompt as a starting point to discuss various aspects of your selected topic and support your ideas with information taken from the textbook, from class discussions, and outside primary and secondary sources (use your skills developed in our document activities and library work to aid that process). You must cite all material appropriately using either footnotes (Chicago Style) or MLA parenthetical references and include a bibliography or works cited page at the end of your essay. The essay must be 1000-1500 words in length. The term paper will be submitted via our class Canvas page.

Here are the broad topic areas from which you may choose:

1. One theme of the course is examining the trajectory of ancient civilizations. Select ONE civilization (for example, Han China, Hellenic Greece) and explore the follow questions:
   a. What made this civilization distinctive? How did it communicate its values through politics, social organization, and material culture?
   b. What led to its decline or demise?
2. Part of our exploration in this course has been the various ways human societies ordered their world through philosophy and faith. Pick ONE of the following philosophical or religious movements and explore its relationship to the social order, politics, and culture of the civilization in which it developed.
3. In ancient world, social institutions become increasing the basis for stability, individualization, development, and even political authority. Pick one cultural institution and write a critical history that examines how and in what ways that institution helped shape the world around it.

Evaluation

Final drafts of the term papers will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Argument/Organization (35%): Does the paper identify a significant topic or issue? Does it propound a thesis? Does the writer state the purpose and thesis clearly? Is the scope of the paper appropriate? Is the opening effective in establishing the context, purpose and point of view? Is the thesis developed and supported with an adequate argument? Is the argument coherent? Convincing? Is the conclusion effective in summing up the argument?

2. Evidence/Analysis (30%): Does the writer make accurate use of sources to support the argument? Is sufficient evidence provided to develop his or her claims persuasively? Does the writer demonstrate analytical and critical skills in using these sources? Does the paper take proper note of the sources and biases? Does it demonstrate command of the topic and its historical context?

3. Expression (15%): Does the writer use language skillfully and appropriately? In other words, does the writer use: a variety of sentence structures and appropriate vocabulary for a formal research paper? Is the writing coherent? Do ideas flow clearly? Are they connected logically?

4. Form (10%): Does the writer follow standard conventions of usage, spelling, and punctuation? Does the writer adhere to the usual rules of citation in footnotes or endnotes and in the bibliography? Are the citations adequate to allow the reader to form a critical opinion of the range and use of sources?

5. Overall Rating (10%): A summary judgment of the paper’s quality, rather than a mere averaging of the categories above. Such factors as creativity and originality will be considered here.