

**HIST 3239**  
**Primary Source Report**

**Guidelines:**

In this assignment you will analyze a primary source relating to one of the topics of the course.

Your “book report” on the primary source will include:

- 1) A thorough **description** of the primary source according to its historical context. (Think, who, what, where, when? -- Who produced it? What is it? Where was it produced? When, and under what circumstances was it produced?)
- 2) A working **summary** of the message or meaning of the primary source. (What is its point? What was the author trying to get across in producing it? Why did it come into being?)
- 3) A discussion of the **significance** of this primary source for understanding the topics of this course. (Why is the source worth examining? What does it have to say about specific topics? How does it inform what scholars say about it, or about the topic to which it relates? Are there useful scholarly explanations of this primary source? [or about the topic to which this source relates?] What do they say? Does the source support what is said about it? Why or why not?) Don't guess on this one, do a little research and analysis.

NOTES: A complete bibliography is expected, including especially those outside secondary sources (books and journal articles) which contributed to your understanding of the primary source.

Footnotes are also expected, along with direct citations, where appropriate. (Don't just tell me what you think, let me know that it's valid through your *specific* support.)

The report is expected to be from five to seven pages in length, exclusive of the bibliography.

**Choosing a source:**

This may be the most difficult part of the project. A source must neither be too long nor too short to write a good report in about 7 pages. It must not be too obscure. You must be able to find a *complete* copy of it in a language you can read. The source must fit the topics of this course.

In choosing a primary source, consider the important names in the textbooks for this course: A work by Christine de Pisan, Ficino, Luther, or Petrarch might be just the right fit.

There are possibilities beyond those which are immediately available in print: Consider online sources such as EEBO, Project Gutenberg, the Web Gallery of Art, and web searches that result in full texts.

Talk the project over with the instructor. To do this, you must get started NOW.

**Some suggestions for possible primary sources:**

\* Martin Luther's *Large Catechism* \* Theresa of Avilla's *Interior Castle* \* Ignatius Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises* \* Pico's *Oration on the Dignity of Man* \* Montaigne's *Essays* \* Margaret of Navarre's *Heptameron* \* Campanella's *City of the Sun* \* Erasmus' *In Praise of Folly* \* Artemesia Gentilleschi's paintings of *Judith and Holofernes* \* Thomas a' Kempis' *Imitation of Christ* \* The *Religio Medici* \* Francesco Barbaro's *On Wifely Duties* \* Calvin's *Geneva Catechism* \* Thomas More's *Utopia* \* Cornelius' Agrippa's *On Female Pre-Eminence* \* Vasari's *Lives of the Artists* \* Benvenuto Cellini's *Autobiography* \*

**NOTE: THE NEW DUE DATE IS DECEMBER 7.**