

## **Article Review Guidelines History 3239**

- 1) Using First Search, or another appropriate database, find articles from major academic journals on a single topic pertaining to this course. (See the list below.)
- 2) Select three or four which would be appropriate to review together.
- 3) Write a three to five page critical review of the articles which both addresses the content of the individual articles and compares and contrasts their arguments and effectiveness.

### **What I will be looking for when Grading**

For each Article:

- 1) The author's thesis and objectives must be clearly stated by you. (I need to know what she or he is writing about without consulting the article myself. What is a thesis? "The thesis statement represents the author's position and interpretation regarding the subject/content of the writing." -- Dr. R. Hatch.)
- 2) You must clearly state the author's claims and conclusions on the topic.
- 3) You must discuss the author's method and effectiveness. (How does the author support the thesis and does it work?)

For the Articles in General:

- 1) I will look for how you compare and contrast the articles. How do the articles vary in focus, scope, method, objectives, perspective, and effectiveness?
- 2) I will look for your synthesis of the ideas in the articles. How do these articles inform your understanding of the chosen topic? Taken together, what have they contributed toward the shaping of your thoughts and opinions on this topic?

### **List of Topics**

- 1) Renaissance Humanism
- 2) Early Modern Religion and the Reformation
- 3) Gender Issues in the Renaissance and/or Reformation
- 4) The Discovery/Conquest of Non-European Lands
- 5) Popular Culture in the Renaissance and/or Reformation

**Other topics will be accepted with the prior approval of the instructor, but all must relate to the themes and focus of this course.**

### **What is an academic journal?**

- 1) It is written by scholars not reporters.
- 2) It is published by a major research university or a scholarly society.

Examples: *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Speculum* (Medieval History), *Renaissance Quarterly* (Journal of the Renaissance Society of America), *Isis* (Journal of the History of Science Society), *The British Journal for the History of Science* (Journal of the British Counterpart to the H.S.S.), *Ambix* (A journal devoted to the history of Chemistry and Alchemy), *Sixteenth Century Studies Journal* (The journal publication of the Society for Sixteenth Century Studies), etc.

Of course, the library's electronic journals are an excellent source, particularly "J-Stor."