Interpretive Essay

A <u>narrative</u> history answers the questions of who, what, when, and where.
An <u>interpretive</u> essay answers the question of why. Historians view and interpret historical events differently.   In this assignment you will write an 8-10 page essay reviewing how four different authors have viewed and interpreted a specific historical event.

1. ***Select a Topic:***
Review possible topics from the list provided or browse your text or the Internet. Attempt to select a topic that is close to your interests. The topic must be part of American history from 1877 to the present. Ask your professor if you are having difficulty selecting a topic.

2. ***Select Research Material:*** In selecting research materials you are required to have four sources.
   - ***Printed (bound) Books****:* The first three (3) sources must be printed books (non-digital) that are accessible from Susquehanna University library. **Your class text may not be used** as source. However, books or sources referenced inside your text may be used.
   - ***eBooks***: The fourth (4ᵗʰ) source can be an electronic book, webpage, or periodical (magazine or newspaper).
   - All outside sources require the approval of the course professor.

3. ***Read and Take Notes:***
Review each work and ***Take notes*** on the author's thesis, arguments, evidence, biases, assumptions about the subject, and conclusion. You may also consider examining book reviews to make sure that you have found all the key points made by the author (e.g. American Historical Review). **Warning**: Be sure to have access to, or photo copies of, all referenced material. I will randomly select one of your references for you to copy (or print) for source verification.

4. ***Compare:*** Having compiled your notes, examine and highlight any ***similarities*** and ***differences*** between of your authors' historical interpretations.

5. ***Explain:*** After analyzing your material, examine why the authors have differing or similar interpretations. What in the author's background might contribute to favoring a particular interpretation over another? Consider researching the author's background (school, politics, race, sex, income, life experiences, etc.) that may have influenced his/her interpretation.

6. ***State Your Support:*** In closing your essay, state which interpretation you agree with most and explain why you support that particular author.

A sample essay will be made available to use as a guide in writing your essays.

<div align="center">
Interpretive Essay
Technical requirements
</div>

<u>Handing in your essay</u>:
1. **PRINTED COPY** is due before the <u>end of class</u> on assigned due date.
2. **ELECTRONIC COPY MUST** be . . .
   - RECEIVED via e-mail before mid-night on the assigned due date.
   - saved as a Microsoft Word for Windows document **(.docx)**
   - saved with a file name <u>using your last name</u> (i.e. <u>Logan.docx</u>). If your essay is saved in multiple files, please rename those files using the below format as an example. Your essay will be penalized five (5) points for failing to follow the correct naming convention.

   <div align="center">Logan-bib.docx, Logan-title.docx, Logan-essay.docx</div>

3. Essay formatting must follow the ***Chicago Manuel of Style*** (Available in the library, book store, or online.
   - Typed/printed with font size 12 with Arial or Calibri fonts.
   - Double spaced with <u>**one inch**</u> margins on standard 8-1/2" x 11" typing (or printer) paper. **Warning**: Be sure to change your margins. The default for Microsoft Word is 1.25"
   - Page numbers placed at the top, right of the page.
   - Free of all grammatical and spelling errors.
   - Include a Bibliography and footnotes (or endnotes) for all referenced sources in the bibliography. No parenthetical referencing.

<u>Penalties</u>
- **Neglecting to complete this assignment in will result in an automatic failure of the course.**
- <u>100 points</u> off – if the essay fails to contain a bibliography or footnotes
- <u>100 points</u> off – if the essay is ten days late
- <u>10 Points off</u>
  - for each day late - essays must be received and signed by the history department secretary before she leaves work.
  - Essays not stapled or stapled beyond the staple line.
- <u>10 Points off</u>

<u>Incorrect formatting:</u>	<u>Missing</u>
• Bibliography	• Title page
• Page numbers	• Missing or sloppy stapling – must be in upper left corner
• Footnote numbering	• Scoring guide (not stapled to the top of essay)
• Footnote referencing	• Name

- <u>5 Points off</u>
  Failing to follow electronic file name requirements

<u>Definition of Plagiarism</u>
<u>Plagiarize</u> v.-tr. 1. *To steal and use (the ideas or writings of another) as one's own. 2. To appropriate passages or ideas from (another) and use them as one's own* (The American Heritage Dictionary).
The most common form of plagiarism among college students has been the <u>unintentional or innocent use of authoritative sources in their own work</u>, and its representation as their own by neglecting to footnote or otherwise acknowledge the use of such materials. When the words of another are used in student work, they must be both cited as a reference in a footnote and placed in quotation marks.

Deliberate plagiarism has also been exemplified among college students by the active willingness of some to use others' work as their own. Whatever its form, plagiarism is an act of intellectual dishonesty and thus with other forms of cheating is subject to the sanctions listed above.
It is the responsibility of all individuals to ensure that their work does not even accidentally reflect the ideas of another unless these ideas are explicitly attributed to their original source.
(*Susquehanna University Student Handbook.*)

Possible Research Topics - (you are NOT limited to the following:)

1864 Pullman Strike	1961 Bay of Pigs Invasion
1867 Molly Maguires	1962 Cuban Missile Crises
1870 Mother Jones and American Labor	1964 War on Poverty – was it successful?
1877 The Great Railroad Strike	1964 Gulf of Tonkin Attacks
1880 John D. Rockefeller	1966 Black Panthers and Civil Rights
1886 Haymarket Square Bombing	1968 My Lai Massacre
1887 Dawes Act	1968 Nixon's China diplomacy
1890 Journalism and Spanish American War	1968 Kennedy DUI Chappaquiddick killing
1890 Booker T. Washington vs DuBois	1968 Chicago Riots - Democratic Convention
1890 Battle of Wounded Knee	1970 Love Canal
1892 Homestead Strike	1970 Phyllis Schlafly - Stop ERA movement
1892 Lizzie Borden murder trial 1892	1972 Equal Rights Amendment
1895 Venezuela border dispute	1979 Iranian Hostage Crises
1898 U.S.S. *Maine* explosion	1979 Operation Argo
1898 The Spanish-American War	1980 Reaganomics
1898 Annexation of Hawaii	1980 October Surprise – Iranian Hostages
1899 War against Filipino independence	1980 Carter-Reagan debate Impact
1902 Anthracite Coal Strike	1980 Failed Hostage Rescue in Iran
1903 Panama Revolution and the Canal	1980 "Zero Option" – Arms Reduction
1914 U.S. occupation of Veracruz	1981 Reagan - Air Traffic Controllers strike
1914 Wilson - Pancho Villa	1983 Grenada Invasion
1919 The First Red Scare	1983 Reagan and Starwars
1920 Marcus Garvey – Back to Africa	1984 Jesse Jackson Rainbow Coalition
1920 Sacco and Vanzetti murder trial	1985 Reagan & Iran-Contra Scandal
1920 Henry Ford's anti-semitism	1985 MOVE fire of Philadelphia
1920 Prohibition	1987 Reagan Tear Down" Berlin Wall speech
1929 Causes of the Great Depression	1989 Invasion of Panama (President Bush)
1932 New Deal – Was it successful?	1989 Persian Gulf War Justification
1932 Hoover's treatment of the Bonus Army	1993 Black Hawk Down - Mogadishu raid
1932 Roosevelt and Civil Rights	1994 Mid-term election - political realignment
1940 A. Philip Randolph – Civil Rights Leader	1996 TWA Flight 800
1940 Charles Lindbergh Nazi puppet	1998 Clinton-Lewinsky Scandal
1941 Pearl Harbor, Did the U.S. Know?	2000 2000 Presidential Election Crises
1942 Japanese Internment	2000 California Energy Crises
1945 Dropping of the Atomic Bomb	2001 September 11, 2001, Who is to blame?
1947 Taft-Hartley Act	2001 U.S. v. Bill Gates
1947 Joe McCarthy and the Red Scare	2001 Iraq and Weapons of Mass Destruction
1960 The Counterculture	2002 National Missile Defense
1950 No Gun Ri Massacre	2004 Dan Rather-Bush forgeries
1951 Firing of Douglas MacArthur	2008 Clinton Foundation
1953 Julius and Ethel Rosenberg Spy Trial	2012 Benghazi Disaster
1956 Eisenhower and the Suez Crises	2014 Flint Michigan Water Crises
1958 The Second Berlin Crises	2015 California Water Crises
1959 JFK and the Civil Rights Movement	2016 Clinton Email Scandal
1960 U2 Spy Plane Incident	2016 Clinton Election Loss
1960 Kennedy-Nixon TV debate Impact	2016 Decline of Detroit
1960 Verona - Soviet Espionage in America	2016 Syrian Refugee Crises
1960 Decline of New York City 1960s-1970s	2016 Libyan Civil War
1960 Martin Luther King-anti-war movement	2016 Russia and U.S. Presidential Election

Immigration Legislation (Emergency Quota Act, National Origins Act)