

HIST 325 Fall 2010 Final Project: Wikipedia Entry

HIST 325 Fall 2010
Prof. Williams

WIKIPEDIA ENTRY ASSIGNMENT (FINAL PROJECT)

DUE 12/16: e-mail me a link to your revised entry AND print out a hard copy and turn it in to me in my office by 4 pm, Thursday, December 16, 2010. Assignments not received by 4 pm will be considered late (4 points per day penalty for **lateness** unless you can provide written documentation of an emergency; maximum lateness penalty 20 points). Do not turn in the hard copy anywhere or to anyone other than to me, in person, in my office (SCI 267B).

Weight towards final grade: 40%

Assignment:

Your final project will consist of a revised (or new) Wikipedia entry including at least 2500 words of original text (written by you), a revised outline, complete citations, revised list of references, “see also” links and external links (only to scholarly, PEER REVIEWED websites and authorized online primary sources).

Follow Wikipedia standards while meeting the criteria below. In case of conflict between Wikipedia standards and this assignment, FOLLOW CLASS CRITERIA.

Breakdown of credit for this assignment:

For each element below (pp. 2-3), your project will be rated “excellent” (meets or exceeds the criterion, full points); “satisfactory” (partially meets the criterion, 80% credit); or “unsatisfactory” (assignment completed but does not meet this criterion, 50% credit).

Once your project has been graded under each criterion, penalty points will be **subtracted** from your grade as described below. Penalty points can reduce your grade as low as 0 (no credit for this assignment, automatic F in HIST 325). This includes penalties for lateness, insufficient word count, and too few sources. To receive an “A” you must meet or exceed all criteria and incur no more than 2 penalty points (38/40, 95%).

Word count: *minimum* 2500 words; table of contents, citations, reference lists, & external links not included. Penalty: 1 point off for each 50 words below 2400 words. No extra credit for entries well over 2500 words. Entries “padded” with irrelevant material, excess verbiage, or long quotations will receive 0 points under criterion II.A and may fail other criteria as well.

****SEE PAGE 4 FOR PENALTY CLAUSES****

I. Organization & format (5 points)

I.A. Organization (2 points)

Outline of (revised) page is clear and logical
Content appears under the correct section of the outline; repetition avoided
Correct use of Wikipedia heading styles/conventions

I.B. Overall format (2 points)

Appropriate use of links to other pages within Wikipedia
Appropriate use of footnotes, reference list, and [external links](#); include links to online primary sources and peer-reviewed web sites
All links tested and working (SEE PENALTY 1)

I.C. Citation format (1 point; SEE PENALTY 1)

Consistent citation style used throughout (except sections you did not contribute to at all; identify and follow citation style used in the existing entry; use APA or Chicago Style for a new entry or if citation style is unrecognizable)
All citations have been corrected to follow citation style properly
No citations are incomplete (lacking information, such as page numbers)
No abbreviations used to refer to previous citations (ibid., op. cit., loc. cit., and so on)

II. Content (20 points)

II.A. Writing (6 points; SEE PENALTY 2)

Clear, concise, appropriate tone; use formal written English conventions; avoid wordiness, pretentious language, over-use of impersonal constructions and the passive voice; be concrete and specific, avoiding sweeping generalizations; stick to the facts
Significant “filler” material will mean a failure to satisfy this criterion (more than ~300 words of your total not substantive or relevant)

No mechanical errors (typos, spelling errors, grammatical errors, including run-on sentences & sentence fragments) or other deviations from standard written English

II.B. Informational content (14 points)

Topic is treated thoroughly and in detail, balancing mere facts with historical context and interpretation; entry will be useful for future researchers & anyone interested in topic
Entry is fact-filled and substantive (see under II.A; “filler” may also affect this criterion)
Information is correct: no factual errors, no illogical arguments, implausible inferences, or errors on larger historical context
No contradictions of fact or implication from one section to another
Disputed points, areas of speculation or uncertainty are presented clearly and fairly
“Neutral point of view” observed

III. Use of sources (15 points)

III.A. Selection of sources (8 points)

Cite the most important, most recent, most authoritative scholarly secondary sources in English. Where appropriate, also cite relevant primary sources: to exemplify points found in the secondary literature, to support your discussion of information not directly attributable to specific secondary sources, or to indicate to your reader what primary sources are cited by or stand in support of the statement of a secondary source. Problems with your initial bibliography identified in feedback for that assignment must be corrected, by using better secondary or primary sources, or a greater number of sources.

In addition to these quality standards, satisfying this criterion (80%) requires citing **at least 10 sources** (including both primary and secondary material). Entries citing fewer than 8 sources will be considered “unsatisfactory” (50%). Citing over 10 sources may count towards “excellent” (100%), if all sources cited meet quality requirements.

III.B. Citation of sources (4 points; SEE PENALTY 3)

Citing sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citing_sources

Going beyond Wikipedia’s conventions, on this assignment you must attribute all significant statements in your Wikipedia entry to authoritative, scholarly, up-to-date secondary sources. This is especially important for statements about your main topic. Other information may be cited from scholarly reference sources such as those listed on the Research Methods handout, or from peer-reviewed websites such as the [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) or [De Imperatoribus Romanis](#).

When discussing an area of debate, controversy or speculation among scholars, cite multiple scholarly references so that readers will be able to follow your citations to a range of secondary sources reflecting the full range of opinions.

Make sure your citations are correct, especially page numbers; all citations must have page numbers. Readers must be able to follow your citations back to your sources.

III.C. Use of information and quotations (3 points)

Following the model of “featured articles” on late antique and other historical topics, make sure to incorporate a full and rich array of information on your topic. Include short quotations from both primary and secondary sources (no more than ~50 words per quotation) if this helps to enrich your entry. Do not pad your word count with quotations that do not greatly strengthen your entry, but equally do not avoid quotation where it is genuinely useful. “Filler” material may also lower your grade on this criterion.

PENALTY CLAUSES:

1. CITATION FORMAT & LINKS

1 point subtracted for the second missing, incomplete, or improperly formatted citation and 1 for each after that, down to 0 points for 41 or more (no credit for this assignment and an automatic F in HIST 325).

0.25 points subtracted for each missing, broken or incorrect link (internal or external) to a total of 20 penalty points (no higher than 20 points possible for this assignment, final grade in HIST 325 of C+ or lower).

One free pass on citations, 0 free passes on links.

2. WRITING ERRORS (GRAMMAR, SPELLING, ETC.)

4 penalty points for the second mechanical error, 2 for each after that, down to 0 for 20 or more mechanical errors (no credit for this assignment and an automatic F in HIST 325).

One free pass (one typo will not affect your grade).

3. CITATION CONTENT

I will check (minimum) 5 citations at random against your cited sources, subtracting 5 points for every incorrect citation (refers to the wrong page or to a non-existent source). If there is an error in the first 5 citations checked, I will keep going until I have either checked all your citations, or your grade is 0 ((no credit for this assignment and an automatic F in HIST 325). No free pass on this penalty: DO NOT MAKE MISTAKES.