

HIS 247 Contemporary World History Book Review Guidelines (45 pts.):

You are to choose ONE of the recommended books to review for the course. You may look at online reviews but if you are quoting someone and using their words PLEASE FOOTNOTE and list them in your bibliography. All book reviews should be from 3 to 6 pages, typed and double-spaced in written paragraph form NOT outline. Please include all of the following-

1. State in sentence form the author, title, publisher and publication date at the top of your review. Look at some professional historical journals to see how they write reviews. (2 pts.)

2. Introduction of the author: You need to write a paragraph or two about the author. Look them up in Who's Who and see what you can find online about their life. What is/was their occupation (not all history is written by historians), education, experiences, and other important books that they have written? What qualifies him/her to write the book? Do not fill it with trivia. (6 pts.)

3. Summary of the Content of the Book: I do NOT want a chapter-by-chapter description of the book, but a brief overview of the contents. What is the author's main thesis, ie. What is the point of the book, the main idea or what is the author trying to present? What does the author emphasize? Give examples, such as quotations (properly footnoted), to support your points. (10 pts.)

4. Description of source material used by the author: Upon what did he/she base his/her conclusions? How and where did they get their information? If you choose fiction, what in their life experiences gives validity to what they are saying in the book? Are they using primary or secondary sources? (8 pts.)

5. The Critique: This is the most important part of the paper. What is the author's style, organization, conclusions, generalizations, main points of interest, etc.? Do you like the book or dislike it and why? Give specific examples. Did the author succeed, in your opinion, in accomplishing what they set out to do? How could they make the book better? What was the tone of the book and what do you consider the best part of the book? (10 pts.)

6. Conclusion: Write a relatively short, concise conclusion to the review. What use could the book have in the classroom or elsewhere? Do you feel the book is interesting and worth reading? If not, say so and tell why. Would you recommend the book to someone else to read? (6 pts.)

7. Writing Style: Here I will look at overall flow of the review and how well written it is. Please proof your review several times before you hand it in. (3 pts.)

Remember: Please footnote any quotes and sources that you are using that are not your own ideas or your own words. Please footnote all quotations that are taken directly from the book that you are using as examples to support your claims and comments. Be sure you proofread the review and run spell check at least once, Please! Historians prefer AHA or Chicago style but I will accept the MLA or APA style of footnoting.