GUIDELINES FOR THE PAPER ON PRIMARY SOURCES
HIST350 – Spring 2009
Dr. Lovano

Select one (1) of the following sections as the topic for your paper. Read the question carefully. Answer the question as completely as possible, organizing the information in your paper in a clear and logical manner, with an introduction, a thesis, a body of argumentation and evidence drawn from the primary sources, and a conclusion. Make sure your paper actually answers the question and does not stray from the assigned topic. The success of this assignment depends on it being a thorough, focused discussion of source texts. Do not consult any sources outside of the course texts! Be sure that the examples you use from the texts are the most appropriate and the most relevant for whatever topic you are discussing/point you are proving.

Do not collaborate with others in forming your answer to the question (the answer should represent your own independent work)! Remember that your signature is required on any written assignment in accordance with the Academic Honor Code III.2 and the rules of Academic Honesty in section I of the Academic Honor Code will be strictly enforced.

The paper should be typed, double-spaced, using 12 cpi Times New Roman font, and follow the rules of proper English grammar and style. Be sure to include footnotes or parenthetical citations. Remember: the paper is to be at least but not much more than 2,000 words (that is, 6 pages) in length! Follow closely these technical guidelines, especially the requirements for font type and size, as they will help you to keep the paper within reasonable page limits. There is no need to cram as much as possible into these papers! Please keep in mind: errors in technique and mechanics adversely affect your grade just as errors in content and argument.

The final draft of the paper must be turned in no later than Friday, 5/1, 5PM in my office, Boyle 405. You may review with me in person a working draft no later than Tuesday, 4/28, by 5PM.

REMEMBER: The opening paragraph or introduction, as a statement of your main ideas, should be able to stand on its own. A reader should not have to go any farther than your intro to know exactly what you think about the matter at hand; it should focus your reader’s attention on the importance of your subject and the major points or arguments. To achieve this, the intro depends, as does the entire paper, on a definite thesis/theme or a combination of definite theses/themes. So, give careful thought to how you will present your thesis/theme. Avoid vagueness and rambling. Be precise in your thesis, claiming neither too much nor too little about what is to follow from it in your paper. Also, since a historical paper is not a mystery story, the reader should not have to wait long to understand your purpose or to get to your first main point.

The introduction creates an expectation about what you are going to deliver in the body of the paper. The body of the paper exists to substantiate the assertions made in your intro, supporting those ideas through the persuasive arrangement and analysis of examples and factual details that are fully relevant to the main points you are making. Sort this evidence into logical divisions and present your analysis of the evidence and the results. Remember that your purpose is to demonstrate your understanding of the documents, not to express your personal, political, moral, or religious convictions.

The concluding sentences are your final chance to influence your reader and are worthy of special attention. Summarize what you have done in the paper, recalling what you promised to do in the intro.

I will evaluate your paper based on the following criteria:
Organization and logical development:
  1) Do you have a sound and strong thesis and a blueprint for the paper in your intro?
  2) Do you organize the paper around main points?
  3) Do you analyze your evidence and link your ideas to one another logically?

Content:
  4) Do you use appropriate evidence from pertinent sources?
  5) Do you present and develop ideas that together answer the question that is being asked?

Style and diction:
  6) How clear and sophisticated are your sentence structure and your choice of words?
  7) Are there any serious or repeated problems with grammar, spelling, punctuation, or proofreading that hinder the communication of your ideas?

Serious flaws in any one of these areas will significantly alter the quality of the paper and therefore the grade earned. Consult your syllabus for further grading standards.

1) As a result of imperialism and the First World War, Europeans (who had generally been becoming more optimistic and idealistic since the Enlightenment) lost their trust in authority figures and in nationalism, lost their faith in the goodness and rationality of human beings, even their belief in human progress (that humans will continue to be better and better, that their future as a race will always be brighter). How do Remarque’s *All Quiet on the Western Front* and Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness* help you to understand this loss of idealism?

2) Explain how both Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness* and Charles Dickens’ *Hard Times* critique the supposedly “Enlightened” European civilization. How did industrialization, according to Dickens, and imperialism, according to Conrad, pervert the ideals of the Enlightenment?

3) Compare and contrast Hallie's *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed* and Remarque’s *All Quiet on the Western Front* on the following topics: What is patriotism? How does one define the enemy? Who are the victims of wartime? What are the ethics of wartime? Who is to blame for the horrors of war? How is the home front yet another theater of war?

**Note:** You may choose to write on a topic of your own creation, with prior instructor approval, but it must be composed using a combination of the primary sources from this class.