Grading Criteria for Paper 4 (Final Paper), MMW 14 and MMW 122, Winter 2015

Note: In order for your paper to be graded, you must submit: an 8-10 page paper with your handwritten Academic Integrity statement, a Works Cited page, all print-outs/photocopies, the Prospectus Template, Criteria for Evaluating Web Pages (if relevant), your previous graded papers and ungraded drafts, and the Paper 4 Grading Rubric. Your work will be considered late until all of these items have been submitted.

A successful final draft will accomplish the following (not necessarily in this order):

1. Provide a title that gives the reader direction and focus
2. Clearly define the historical and geographical context of the topic that is relevant to the historical period covered in the course
3. Identify and explains a significant conceptual problem related to the topic and discovered in your research
4. Propose an appropriate Level-3 research question that addresses the conceptual problem
5. Advance a thesis statement in answer to the question posed (you may elect to discuss the thesis later in the paper)
6. Indicate the significance of your topic, the question and, ultimately, your thesis (the “so what?”)
7. Develop and support your thesis with ample, relevant and factually correct evidence
8. Explain which claims each piece of evidence supports and how the evidence supports the claims (analysis)
9. Consider at least one scholarly counter-argument, present evidence for it, discuss its merits and flaws, and rebut it with evidence, demonstrating why your thesis is stronger
10. Acknowledge your sources clearly and correctly, and use paraphrase, summary, and quotation, and citation conventions accurately and appropriately (in MLA format)
11. Discuss the significance of your thesis in addressing the conceptual problem you have identified
12. Organize your support in a coherent, compelling, logical structure that takes your readers’ needs into account
13. Use scholarly sources for all research
14. Provide a Works Cited page in MLA format
15. Provide a photocopy or printout for each reference to each cited source, correctly highlighted and labeled, stapled, and presented in the order cited in the Prospectus
16. Write in stylistically effective and grammatically and mechanically correct prose. See green highlighting for major grammar or mechanical errors.
17. Adhere to all of the policies for formatting in the MMW Program Policies sheet.

A-/A: Meets all of the above criteria at an exceptionally high level, exceeding expectations, in most, if not all instances

B/B+: Meets most of the above criteria at a very high level, with only minor exceptions

C+/B-: Meets most of the above criteria at a high level, but has some issues that interfere with full realization of goals

C-/C: Attempts to meet the above criteria, and for the most part succeeds at an acceptable level, but is difficult to follow or not compelling because of issues with one or more criteria

D: Meets few criteria; often unclear or undeveloped; errors significantly impair the essay

F: Fails to meet all of the above criteria, or topic is unrelated to the assigned prompt, or uses one or more outside sources