The writing assignments in MMW 122 draw on the analytical, research, and writing skills that you learned in MMW 121. This quarter you will write an eight- to-ten-page research paper that will require you to:

Select a topic relevant to the historical period 1750CE to “the present”
Read many sources on the topic, paying attention to disagreements, gaps, inconsistencies, or complexities.
Identify a conceptual problem and develop an open-ended, level-three question about your research topic
Identify alternative hypotheses or counter-arguments (and the evidence that supports them) that answer your question
Evaluate, from among those hypotheses, what you believe to be the strongest of the answers to your question (your thesis), or advance your own argument with a strong thesis
Develop an argument to support your thesis and support with evidence from your sources
Discuss the significance of your topic and of your thesis (in better explaining your topic)

Your research paper will be completed in four stages according to the schedule below. Each stage of the MMW writing assignment sequence must be completed and submitted in order to pass the course. Please note that you may not submit a paper or parts of a paper that were written for another course.

RESEARCH QUESTION WORKSHEET
In this assignment you will demonstrate your exploration of a topic by identifying the sources you have consulted, recording your observations on the worksheet provided, and advancing a research question that appears to have more than one plausible answer. Provide a photocopy or printout for each observation that you make. Photocopy or print out the source’s title page and copyright page and highlight the passage(s) that are relevant to the observation. In addition, submit a Works Cited page, in MLA format, that includes all of your sources.
LENGTH: 2 pages (worksheet) DUE: Week 3, in section

PROSPECTUS
In this assignment you will write a prospectus that outlines your research project. Your prospectus should indicate, in three pages, your research question and working thesis, the counterarguments that you will address, the historical and scholarly context of your argument, and at least some of the evidence you plan to offer in support of your claims. Submit photocopies or printouts of all the sources to which you refer, labeled with complete citation information and highlighted as for the first assignment, as well as a
Works Cited page, in MLA format, that includes all your sources. You may consult as many sources as you wish for this assignment, but everything that you cite must be scholarly.

LENGTH: 3 pages DUE: Week 5, in section

5% ROUGH DRAFT AND ROUGH DRAFT WORKSHOP
Before you finish your final draft, you will participate in a rough draft workshop with several of your peers. First, you will bring to section several copies of your rough draft: one for each of your group members. You will write comments on your group members’ papers and share your comments in your rough draft workshop, which will take place in the following section. Your rough draft should be close to full length (6 to 10 pages, not including the Works Cited page) and should be as polished as possible. You are not required to submit photocopies or printouts with your rough draft.

LENGTH: 6-10 pages ROUGH DRAFTS DUE: Week 8, in section WORKSHOPS: Week 9, in section

15% FINAL PAPER
Submit an 8- to 10-page research paper that advances and supports an argument on a topic relevant to and significant for the course. Include a complete, up-to-date Works Cited page at the end of your paper. (Note: the minimum page length does not include the Works Cited page.) You must also submit photocopies or printouts of all the sources to which you refer in your paper, labeled with complete citation information and highlighted as for the first assignment.

LENGTH: 8-10 pages DUE: Week 10, in section

Note: At the end of the quarter you will be required to submit a folder containing all four of the writing assignments that you have completed this quarter, as well as printouts or photocopies of all of the sources mentioned in your in-text citations and your Works Cited page. Please note that you must submit the copies that have your TA’s or peers’ comments on them, not unmarked copies, which means that you should make sure that you keep the graded copies of all four writing assignments. At the end of the quarter you must submit all of your written work to your TA and upload an electronic copy of your final paper to Turnitin.com in order to get a grade for the course.

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