Grading Criteria for Writing Assignment 5, MMW 13, Spring 2015

In order to do well on this paper, you need to situate yourself within an ongoing academic conversation, raise a valuable issue, and present a persuasively argued point, supported with relevant scholarly evidence and consideration of at least one scholarly counterargument.

A successful final draft will accomplish the following:

1. Write an introduction that:
   a. sets up a level 3 question about a topic that is amenable to scholarly research and from the period covered in MMW 13 (1200-1750 CE)
   b. shows the significance of the issue (the “so what”)
   c. engages readers’ interest
   d. answers the question directly with a clear, arguable thesis and makes the connection clear between the thesis and question
   e. summarizes the evidence in the order it will be presented in the body of the paper
2. Provide a title that gives reader direction and focus
3. Clearly define the historical and geographical context of the topic, providing background material, including definitions of key terms
4. Develop and support your answer with sufficient, compelling reasoning and evidence from relevant texts, including at least 1 scholarly journal article
5. Explain which claims each piece of evidence support and how the evidence supports the claims
6. Acknowledge your sources clearly and correctly, and use paraphrase, summary, and quotation accurately and appropriately
7. Organize your support in a coherent, compelling, logical structure that takes your readers’ needs into account
8. Use topic sentences and transitions that connect the evidence to the claim and enable readers to easily follow the flow of your thinking
9. Consider at least one scholarly counterargument, present evidence for it, discuss its merits and flaws, and rebut it with evidence, showing why your argument is better
10. Provide factually and culturally accurate information
11. Write a conclusion that briefly summarizes the argument, elaborates on the implications of your thesis, and shows how it dispels common misconceptions, can help explain similar cases, or makes other contributions to scholarly knowledge
12. Write as a scholar-in-training to intelligent peers, making your essay clear enough for a reader unfamiliar with the course and its materials to understand with one reading
13. Use MLA format to format the essay and accurately cite sources for all information, ideas, and words that are not your own or are not common knowledge to people outside of this course
14. Write in stylistically effective and grammatically and mechanically correct prose
15. Adhere to MMW Program Policies as specified in the MMW 13 handouts
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 outside of assignment parameters