The writing assignments for MMW14, MMW15, and MMW122 draw on the analytical, research, and writing skills that you learned in MMW 12, MMW13, or MMW121. This quarter you will write an original eight- to ten-page research paper that will require you to:

Select a topic relevant to the historical period covered by the course you are taking (may not be US specific)
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 (and the evidence that supports them) that answer your question
Select, from among those hypotheses, what you believe to be the strongest of the answers to your question (your thesis)
Develop an argument based on your thesis and supported 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.

---

**5% RESEARCH QUESTION**
In this assignment you will demonstrate your exploration of a topic by identifying the sources you have consulted, recording your observations, identifying a conceptual problem 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. Label each photocopy or printout with the source’s author and title, 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

**10% 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
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

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. Submit your final paper to Turnitin.com by midnight on the day it is due.

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.