

The Black Death in Early Modern Europe

Due on Monday 11 September @ Midnight

The study of the Black Death has continued for centuries and remains one of great interest in the 21st-century. As we have discussed in class, there are multiple disciplinary approaches that can be utilized by historians in order to provide a complete picture of the impact of the plague on Early Modern European society. Your job in this paper will be to decide how many disciplines should be incorporated in order to write compelling history about this particular epidemic. In your thesis statement, you will need to answer the following question:

Why is taking an interdisciplinary approach beneficial when studying the Black Death?

In your answer to the question you must discuss the value added to historical understanding by at least **TWO** academic disciplines. You may include more, but make sure you have a clear argument and progression through the evidence. You may want to center your argument on a single concept or theme as a means of focusing your argument. Alternatively, you may wish to begin by discussing one disciplinary approach and then noting what should be added to it to complete someone's appreciation of this historic epidemic. Ultimately this is where your conclusion needs to lead – to an expression of why multiple disciplines add essential nuances to 21st-century histories of the Black Death.

To provide ample support for your argument you must provide evidence from at least **FOUR** secondary sources. Material from these sources will need to be incorporated into your paper to some extent, even if it is just to echo what another historian has said. All of the historians will not agree and you will need to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses (both as authors and as historians) as you formulate your own conclusions. When you introduce the specific ideas from one of the historians, do so initially with a direct quotation after which you may prefer to paraphrase their supporting ideas.

Technical specifics:

Your paper should be at least 1000 words long, typed, double-spaced, and in 12-pt. font with 1-inch margins. You must use *Chicago Manual of Style* footnotes for all the information you utilize (see reverse for more details). Do not forget to put your name on your paper.

In-class proofreading session:

We will have an in-class proofreading session on the 11th after which you can make any needed changes before e-mailing your paper to Dr. Myers by the Midnight deadline. Bring a copy of your draft with you and be prepared to do some proofreading yourself. ☺

Reminder:

As noted in your class syllabus, students at Monmouth are all expected to read and abide by the Scots Guide Student Handbook. In particular you should remember that plagiarism is *illegal*, so you must follow the guidelines for referencing your reading and class notes closely. And if you have any questions about how to properly cite your sources, ask!!!

Writing Center:

Students are also encouraged to make use of the Writing Center in the MLC. You can access their schedule at <http://www2.monm.edu/cac/writing-center/writing-center.htm>

Using Footnotes

For any piece of information or ideas you use from another source, you must provide a reference. Let me repeat that...for *any* piece of information or ideas you use from another source, you must provide a reference. In addition, you must place quotation marks around any direct wording you take from a source, even if it is only three or four words.

As a general rule, you should have at least one footnote per paragraph in your paper. You may list more than one source in the footnote to save you making too many of them, but you must have all the knowledge you have "borrowed" properly cited.

For this paper, please use footnotes. Your computer will automatically insert them for you. To insert a footnote, place cursor at the end of the sentence and do as follows:

- ★ In Microsoft Word (for Windows)...go to the Reference tab.
- ★ Click on "Add Footnote..."
- ★ Automatically a new "footnote" will come up at the bottom of your paper, set to the correct footnote number you should be on. At that point you will type in your reference information according to *The Chicago Manual of Style*. After you are finished, you can move your cursor back to the main text of your paper with your mouse. It is also good to know that you can cut, paste, and copy footnotes just as you can any other text (by highlighting the number in the paper itself and performing whichever function you need) and all the reference information will move along with the number.
- ★ Footnotes are normally in 10pt. font.
- ★ Do not change the default settings the computer uses for your footnotes, they should all be correct already.
- ★ There will NEVER be two footnotes with the same number.
- ★ Finally, footnotes are NOT footers and should not be in your footer.

If you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to ask Dr. Myers for assistance.

Here are some examples to help you in laying out your references:

¹ HIST 230: Europe 1300-1700, September 6, 2017.

² David Herlihy, *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West* (Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press, 1997), 25-29.

³ Louise Marshall, "Manipulating the Sacred: Image and Plague in Renaissance Italy," *Renaissance Quarterly* 47, no. 3 (Autumn 1994): 500.

⁴ Henry Kamen, *Early Modern European Society* (London and New York: Routledge, 2000, 2007), 138.

⁵ Herlihy, 53.

⁶ Lester K. Little, "Review Article: Plague Historians in Lab Coats," *Past & Present* 213 (November 2011): 271.

⁷ "Ken Follett's Journey into the Dark Ages," YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5j1yvQTV2Wk&t=26s> (accessed September 1, 2017).

Note: If you have a copy of Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (that is available in the Bookstore) it has all the formatting instructions you need.

No Bibliography or Works Cited page is required for this assignment.