

What I Expect From Your Papers

Paper Development and Discussion (via Canvas)

During the week before the papers are due, we will spend time in class and online in discussion groups. These groups are intended to facilitate brainstorming and discussion. At various steps along the paper development, you will post your ideas onto Canvas. These posts are intended to facilitate more critically informed papers and to prevent procrastination. Students will post in threads by offering specific points of analysis helpful to the development of the paper. These posts should incorporate the readings and/or the lectures.

Please see each individual paper assignment for their respective due dates.

The Papers

Papers will be judged for their ability to make a persuasive argument in a limited amount of space. Precision and use of primary sources will determine the quality of the paper. Papers are equally evaluated for content, persuasiveness, and writing. Footnotes are required to designate work that is not your own -- whether in direct quotation or in paraphrase. Please see the second page on footnoting for this course or consult the Purdue OWL if you need a reminder about how to footnote.

Because many ideas will be shared in the in-class and online discussions, students will be expected to evaluate and incorporate the most effective points in their papers. This, however, does not mean that one may simply plagiarize from another's work. If you are using thoughts and ideas from the class discussions (in-class or online), these must be reformulated into your own words. Please come and see me if you have **any** questions about what might be considered plagiarism.

An "A" paper will be one that effectively uses the primary sources to support a clear thesis, follows a clearly organized path of presentation, has no grammatical or spelling errors, and uses footnotes and paper margins properly. Also, the highest quality papers will offer argumentation beyond what has already been stated in the in-class and online discussions.

Paper Format

1. All essays should be ***typed and double-spaced***, not triple-spaced or space-and-a-half! Do not skip lines between paragraphs.
2. Leave ***one-inch margins*** on both the right and left, so I'll have room for comments. Margins set any wider or narrower will be penalized.
3. Name, class title, instructor, and due date should appear on the top of the first page.
4. All papers need a title.
5. Papers should be labeled with page numbers.
6. You must have proper citations for books you own using the Chicago Manual of Style guidelines for footnotes. For other materials, you should consult the next page.
7. These papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date.
8. Lastly, please just staple your paper together. No cover page is necessary.

These papers must be submitted in person. **No late papers (by email or otherwise) will be accepted.**

Citations and Footnotes

Remember, this is a religious studies paper, so I expect you to use the Chicago Manual of Style for your paper formatting. Other paper formatting issues are explained in the "What I Expect From Your Papers" page above.

Biblical References

I expect you to use footnotes for your papers with one EXCEPTION: **biblical references** do not need to put into your footnotes. So, for example, if I were to write:

The Gospel of John opens with a problematic statement about the divinity of the second person of the Trinity by asserting that the "Word was with God and the Word was God" (John 1.1).

In an instance like the one above, you can place the reference within the body of your text.

However, when you cite or paraphrase from the **other sources**, you will need to use footnotes.

Books to Which You Have Access to Publication Information

If we are using a book that I have asked you to purchase, you will need to offer a full citation in your footnotes. You can easily find how to do that on the Purdue OWL website.

Digital Documents

But, because much of our material is on Canvas or from an anthology, it will be difficult for you find the full and proper citations for the texts. So, I will not expect you to cite the editions in which these texts appear. All you will need to note is the Author, *Title* or "Article Title", page. I will assume that you are using the texts from the Canvas.

So, an example of citing from the course's digital texts would be:

Marx would agree with Andy's outlook on religion. In particular, both are skeptical of the purpose of religion in a person's life since religion itself acts as "opium" to dull one's ability to see the horrors of society.¹

¹ Karl Marx, "Religion as Opium: Man Makes Religion," 229.

Canvas Forum Posts

I also expect that you would give proper attribution to a comment made by one of your classmates on Canvas. Since a full citation is cumbersome and you are accessing a closed set of posts, you can abbreviate Canvas post citations. In those instances, the proper format would be: author. "title or subject line of forum post." posting date. title of Canvas page. date of access.

An example of this would be:

The narrator, Reg Kim, labels the criminal activity as "a simple misunderstanding" between the police and the protesters.²

² Reg Kim, "My Retelling." 6 June 2018. REL XXX-XX Canvas. 9 June 2018.

Why We Do It This Way In This Class

In the two instances when you would use a digital text above, I have simplified the footnote expectations rather than expect you to use the full Chicago format. Since you are working with a closed set of texts and not doing your own research, I only need the most basic information for these citations.

If you have any other questions, please get in touch with me.