HIS 400  
Week Four Writing Assignment

For your final assignment, choose an event, person, or topic in history as your subject.

Some examples could be (you can use one of these or choose your own topic):

- Industrial Revolution
- American Civil War
- Air power in WWII
- Women’s suffrage
- Slavery in South America

Next, find four secondary sources on your topic. A secondary source is a history book or paper written by an expert on the topic who is not an eyewitness to the event. This historian would have done research to learn about your topic because he or she was not there. Each of your secondary sources must represent a different historical theory from our course. In other words, the book or article on your topic will be informed by a particular theory such as gender, quantitative, Marxist, empiricist, historical sociology, ethnohistory, etc. etc.

Here’s an example:
JB picked the topic of the War of 1812. He found an e-book through the library that argued the War of 1812 was actually a clash between the Bourgeoisie classes in the cities and the lower-class frontier people in places like Kentucky and Ohio. JB found an article about women who fought in the War of 1812 disguised as male soldiers. Then JB used another book that told the story of the War of 1812 from the Cherokee point of view. Finally, JB used an article that provided statistics on the economic history of Louisiana before and after the War of 1812. As you can see, JB found four histories of the War of 1812 using Marxist theory, gender theory, ethnohistory, and quantitative history. You can choose your historical topic and any four historical theories we studied in this class.

This paper will showcase your knowledge of historical theory.
Style of paper and organization:
This is an essay with an introductory paragraph, a body that explains your topic, sources, and theories, and a concluding paragraph. Include a thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. Remember to feature the authors and the theories. Use the course materials on theory to define your four and explain how you know what you know about these theories. Use your example works sparingly - don't go overboard explaining the history part. Go overboard explaining the theory part.

Cite within the text and in a Bibliography/Works Cited page at the end. I'm concerned that you follow the citation style correctly whether it's Chicago or another style.

Length: 6-8 pages. This is a little longer than the other assignments, but your essay can easily encompass one intro paragraph, four-eight body paragraphs (one or two for each theory), and one concluding paragraph. Please don’t go over 10 pages max.

Min. Required Sources: Use the required course materials to support the content of your argument and your examples. Additional Sources: Use other appropriate, authoritative sources you may find as appropriate. There are many books and articles on history theory that you can use if you would like.

Follow Standard College Presentation:
One-inch margins
11 or 12 pt. type
Double spacing
Header or title page containing student name, name of assignment, date, instructor's name, etc.
Page numbers
Citations in the text. History grad students use Chicago Manual of Style. Others may use MLA, APA, or Chicago.
Bibliography section correctly formatted
Written in Standard English

Required Filename: In “save as” include your name and the name of the assignment in your filename.