

NOTE: THERE ARE *FOUR* HAND-OUTS BELOW:

- 1. The paper assignment.**
- 2. Rules for the paper assignment, Part I.**
- 3. Rules for the paper assignment, Part II.**
- 4. A hand-out on how to *cite your sources in the paper*. (Rules for the paper assignment, final hand-out.)**

This is the complete collection of hand-outs for the paper assignment. *Read them all carefully*. Failure to abide by the rules and guidelines will cause your grade for the assignment to suffer grievously. Don't let that happen.

- KMB, 11-02-09

K. M. Boughan * HIST 103 * Fall 2009 * The Citadel
Paper Assignment: Primary Source Analysis

As an academic discipline, history is primarily the *interpretation of primary sources*. In this assignment, you are asked to “do history” by analyzing the primary source reading for this course: Snorri Sturluson’s *King Harald’s Saga*. No sources are required for this assignment other than your class notes and the required primary or secondary reading for the course. All the rules governing this assignment will be given in additional hand-outs.

You will answer ONE of the following questions in a formal paper of 7-8 printed, double-spaced pages.

The questions:

1. What medieval Christian beliefs and practices are represented in *King Harald’s Saga*? What is Harald’s relationship with Christianity and the Church? How is typical is it of relationships between secular rulers and the Church in medieval Europe?
2. *King Harald’s Saga* describes a political world of chronic and extreme violence. In what ways is violence *constructive* of a political order in *King Harald’s Saga*? How does Sturluson’s saga reflect the general reality of politics in medieval Europe between 900 and 1300?
3. Snorri Sturluson presents Harald as an ideal king. What exactly makes an ideal king according to *King Harald’s Saga*? How much does this ideal of kingship reflect the reality of kingship in Harald’s time (the eleventh century) or in Snorri’s (the thirteenth century)?

Due date: Friday, December 4, 2009 (in class). You must submit BOTH a printed copy and an electronic copy. The electronic copy must be sent to kurt.boughan@citadel.edu by 5pm, Dec. 4.

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Rules for Primary Source Analysis Paper, Part I

1. Length: The paper is to be no less than seven standard doubled-spaced pages long. The ideal length is eight double-spaced pages; the maximum length is twenty double-spaced pages.

2. Format:

All margins are to be **one inch** -- top, bottom, and sides.

You may write in any standard, business-like font **except Courier, Courier New, or any variant thereof**. Font size may be no less than 10 points, no more than 12. Twelve is preferred. **Number your pages** in the **upper right-hand** corner of the page. Do not include anything but a number in that place (no names, titles, etc.).

Include a **title page**. The title page should contain the title of your paper, centered on the page, in a font size no larger than twelve points. **The title page should not be numbered**; page 1 is the first page of paper content. Type your name, the date, the course and section number in the lower right-hand corner of the title page.

No graphics on the title page or anywhere else.

3. Bibliography and Citation: A bibliography is not necessary *unless you have sought and obtained permission to use a source other than your primary source reading, required secondary reading, and class notes*. You do not need to consult any such "outside" sources to do this assignment. If you wish to use them, you must get your instructor's permission first. You must still cite your sources. A separate hand-out will be distributed to you giving special rules for citation.

4. Quotations: Do not use quotations longer than three lines. This means that there should be **no block quotations**. If a lengthy passage is important to your argument, paraphrase its contents. Direct quotation should be used only when you are sure that it is the best way to make your point.

5. Paraphrasing: Paraphrasing is expressing another person's ideas or language in your own words. Most of your paper will consist of paraphrased material. There is nothing wrong with this, so long as 1) the material is properly cited; and 2) the paraphrasing has been done correctly. You must cite any text that you are using, even when you are not quoting it directly.

Note well: Correct paraphrasing is not substituting one or two words from a passage that is otherwise a word-for-word copy of someone else's work. If you do this, you are **plagiarizing**.

6. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as your own. This is an academic crime. You are assumed to know and understand the regulations of the College regarding plagiarism. Your instructor has long experience detecting -- and prosecuting successfully -- plagiarism from print and electronic sources.

7. The Internet: Under no circumstances may you use the Internet (in any form: Web, gopher, ftp, etc.) to help you in any way to craft the specific content of your paper. You may use general on-line resources such as reputable dictionaries, thesauri, and manuals of style.

8. Emergency Back-Up Copy: Make and keep a hard copy of your paper for yourself. **Keep also a back-up copy on disk in a safe place.** This is for your protection in case, for some reason, the hard copy that you submit is lost.

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Rules for Primary Source Analysis Paper, Part II**

I. Grammar and spelling: Grammar and spelling count.

II. Standard Written English: The paper must be written in Standard Written English. Be mindful of the following formalities:

- 1) **No contractions.** Use “cannot,” not “can’t”, “will not,” not “won’t,” etc.
- 2) **Avoid the first person.** There should be no occasion for you to use the word “I” in this paper. It is assumed that the opinions and arguments in the paper are yours.

III. Thesis statement: Your paper should have a clear *thesis statement*. A thesis statement is your basic answer, in one or two sentences, to the essay question that you have chosen to answer. Your thesis statement should be stated in the first paragraph. It could well be the whole of your first paragraph. The rest of your paper should be argument and evidence in support of your thesis statement, except for a concluding paragraph, which sums up your paper.

IV. Avoid common errors such as the following:

1. **“It’s” as a possessive pronoun.** Example: *The band has lost its rhythm.* It’s = it is. Example: *It’s a shame that he vomited up his lunch at the cocktail reception.* You will not be using “it’s” in your paper, because it’s a contraction (see above).

2. **“There” for “their”, and vice versa.**

3. **“Could of,” “would of”, etc., for “could have”, “should have”, etc.** The former is not English; the latter is correct.

4. **Passive voice.** Avoid using passive verbs. They make prose less clear and less forceful. For example: *The game was won by them.* Better to say: *They won the game.* This is more concise and direct. The worst sort of passive voice is the **impersonal statement**, i.e. a verb without a specified subject. Example: *Mistakes were made.* Now this is grammatically correct. The problem is that it is a weasel-like use of language. *Who* made the mistakes? Think about this sentence: *Jews were gassed in death camps during World War II.* This is grammatically and historically correct. But who did the gassing? Impersonal statement is lazy writing at best, a weasel-like evasion of responsibility at worst. It is also dull and unpersuasive besides. Change your verbs into active verbs, and identify the agents.

5. **Letting computer spell-checking be the only check on your spelling.** Spell-checkers (and grammar-checkers) are not perfect. Always inspect your writing yourself. If you have trouble with grammar or spelling, find a friend who is better at these things to proofread your paper before you hand it in.

6. **Verbose (wordy) writing.** Good writing generally uses as few words as possible to express a thought. When you finish a rough draft of your paper, review each sentence and see whether you can say the same thing in fewer words.

If you need detailed help with Standard Written English and good style, order the following book as soon as possible: Strunk and White, The Elements of Style. This classic manual will give you clear, simple rules for writing well.

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Paper Assignment Rules, Final Hand-out: Rules for Citation

There is no need to append a Bibliography page to your paper (unless you have obtained the permission of your instructor to use printed sources other than the Hunt textbook and Snorri Sturluson's *King Harald's Saga*).

You must, however, cite the facts and ideas that you take from others. *You must cite not only quotations, but anything that comes from your textbook or from a primary source.*

The standard forms of citation are footnotes (or endnotes) and in-text references. I have developed a special system of in-text reference for you. It is very simple and appropriate for this assignment only. Below is a list of codes for each potential source. You are to cite the source in the text of your paper in brackets, followed by the page number.

This is the basic form: [X y], where "X" is the book code, "y" the page number.

The codes are:

MW for Hunt, *The Making of the West*, Vol. I.

KH for Snorri Sturluson, *King Harald's Saga*.

N for your class notes.

If you are citing class notes, there is no page number. So citations to class notes will look like this: [N].

If you are citing Snorri's *King Harald's Saga*, page 86, your citation will look like this:
[KH 86]

Please note: There is no comma in the citation between the book code and the page number.