# Hum 400 Final Essay (20%)

## Instructions:

*Read these instructions carefully and follow them.* ***Not following instructions WILL result in a lower grade, and in some cases an Academic Integrity Report.***

Choose **ONE** of the following questions and write a well-constructed essayof about 1000-1200 words. “Well-constructed essay” means you need, minimally, an introductory paragraph with a thesis, multiple body paragraphs to develop and organize your argument, and a conclusion.

The questions below are based first and foremost on the lectures for each week, and **it will not be possible to do well without using lecture material in a significant way.** Your answers should draw on lectures, and to a lesser extent on seminars and the textbook, as applicable, for supporting evidence and details. It is up to you to choose material that is relevant and will support your argument well. **Information from multiple weeks must be integrated into your answer: You must use at least two different lectures and one other source (the third source can be a third lecture, a seminar class, or the textbook, depending on what’s appropriate for your topic)**.

**Answers should be based on *course materials only*; do not include material from outside sources. Make sure all ideas are expressed in your own words.**

### “Do not include material from outside sources” means:

* use exclusively the lectures, seminars, and textbook for HUM 400.
* if you are using a website or anything else that we have not covered in class:
	+ you have not followed basic instructions, and will minimally get a bad grade.
	+ you are almost certainly plagiarizing, and an Academic Integrity Report is likely.

### “In your own words” means that you need to give *your own* explanations:

* if it’s the words that are written on a lecture or seminar slide, it’s not in your own words
* if it’s the words that were said orally in a lecture or seminar class, it’s not in your own words
* if it’s the words written in the Backman textbook, it’s not in your own words
* if it’s the words written on a website, it’s not in your own words (& see above re: sources!)

You can – and should! – *use* any of the first 3 types of sources here, but you must express ideas *in your own way*. This shows that you actually understand and are processing the material yourself, but is also part of academic honesty: Anything taken word for word from a source *always* needs to be enclosed in quotation marks (as well as cited) – and direct quotes are not generally appropriate for this kind of essay. For the vast majority of your essay, you are synthesizing and presenting facts and ideas, not analyzing specific wordings (which is what quotation is primarily for). Therefore paraphrasing and summarizing are nearly always the way to go.

However, **you must *cite* your sources**, because the *information* is not coming from you. Your creativity comes out in *which* facts and ideas you use and *how* you bring them together to create and support *your specific argument*. A strong argument distinguishes clearly between what comes from various other sources and what is the author’s own analysis; this is not only necessary for academic honesty, but also helps to highlight your own insights and interpretation better.

### Use in-text citations to cite your sources (no need for a Works Cited):

To cite lectures and seminars, aim for clarity and conciseness. Don’t bother crediting the professor by name – this will get wordy fast, given the multi-part format of our lectures, plus multiple lectures by each prof – but indicate (1) LEC for *lecture* or SEM for *seminar*, (2) which *topic* it is (use an abbreviated title) and which *part* (for lectures), and (3) the *time* (just start-time is fine). Some examples:

* (LEC Fem & Abol I 12:02) = 12:02 into Part I of the Feminism & Abolitionism lecture (done live through Blackboard Collaborate).
* (LEC Conserv & Lib II 10:06) = 10:06 into Part II of the Conservatism & Liberalism lecture (pre-recorded and posted on YouTube)
* (SEM Darwin 35:23) = 35:23 into the live seminar session on Darwinism & Social Darwinism.

The “parts” of each lecture are listed clearly on the lectures page.

For a lecture part that has been posted as a narrated PowerPoint rather than as a YouTube video, give the slide number rather than the start-time.

The textbook is easy to cite in regular MLA formatting: (Backman 743) = page 743 in the textbook. Remember not to use the textbook as your *main* source, though. If you use it at all for this assignment, it should be as a relatively minor supporting source.

## Submit your essay:

* double-spaced and in 12-point font.
* Remember: Do not send assignments via email. It is your responsibility to ensure that your essay is submitted successfully (you’ll get a confirmation code) and that you use a format that Blackboard can read (i.e. MS Word or PDF – not Pages or gdoc or anything else).

## Topic choices (CHOOSE ONE – do not write out the question; use a title to make sure it’s clear what topic you’re writing on):

1. Argue FOR OR AGAINST the following thesis: ‘The destructive actions of the U.S. from the 1940s to the 1980s were justified by the need to fight totalitarianism.’
2. Argue FOR OR AGAINST the following thesis: ‘The twentieth century saw the gradual destruction of an international system based on racist ideologies.”
3. Argue FOR OR AGAINST the following thesis: ‘The major changes in western society in the first three-quarters of the twentieth century can be explained by economic and technological factors.’
4. Choose one of Germany, Japan, or China. Discuss how the government and society of your chosen country changed between 1850 and 1950, considering the pressures of industrialization and modernization alongside other causes.
5. Choose one of Russia or the (Democratic Republic of) Congo. Discuss how the government and society of your chosen country changed between 1890 and 1990, considering the effects of political ideologies and global geopolitics alongside other causes.
6. The twentieth century saw a conflict between the nations using different politico-economic systems: Liberal Democracy, Communism, and Fascism. Choose one of these systems and discuss how major events of the twentieth century impacted the relative growth, decline, success or failure of your chosen system. Be sure to explain the key economic, intellectual and political features of your system and consider how they influenced the historical events you discuss.