

Hist 101 Medieval Heroes and Villains: *Debating Truth* Essay instructions (25% total of course grade).
Please take this assignment seriously!

Below is a revised schedule as related to working on this essay. On each “Writing Day” I will be available in our normal classroom during our normal class time to answer questions about your essay. If you need help, come, otherwise we will not meet as a class.

March 28 W Review essay Instructions

April 2 M Writing Day

April 4 W Writing Day

April 9 M Writing Day

April 11W **Due: Debating Truth essay -- Class does not meet**

Due no later than April 11 (11:30pm). Because you have 2.5 weeks to work on this essay and nothing else, late essays will be accepted with an automatic 50% deduction. You need to start work on this essay immediately. Do not expect a good grade if you begin working on your essay on April 9.

Submit your essay to the D2L Dropbox “Debating Truth Essay”.

Essay Instructions: You will write a 3-5 paged essay in which you will analyze one primary source located in *Debating Truth* (see Part II, there are 9 primary sources to pick from; you cannot pick document X). You will need to discuss the historical background to your chosen primary source (your *Debating Truth* text will help you with this). You will need to give a brief overview of the content and meaning of your chosen primary source, and explain why you think it is important for understanding not only the history of the Disputation in Barcelona in 1263 but how it also helps us better understand how the Christian majority in Europe interacted with Muslims and Jews more broadly during the Middle Ages, and how the Church and the State interacted during the Middle Ages. As part of your discussion, make sure you answer the following questions. Who was the author/s of the primary source (if known)? When did the author/s live? Under what circumstances did the author/s write the text? What do you think the author/s purpose was for writing? How are the contents discussed in your primary source written about in your secondary sources (need at least 2 beyond your *Debating Truth* text)? Keep focused, but be sure to support your observations with specific and cited examples.

Format: 1-inch margins (the margin requirement includes your first page beginning 1 inch from the top margin and not half-way down the first page), doubled-space, 12pt font, no extra spaces between paragraphs, identify your sources using the Chicago or Turabian style (don’t know it, look it up), and footnotes/endnotes are to be single-spaced and without a space between each set of notes. You must also provide a bibliography of all sources consulted as part of your analysis, even if you do not quote them directly (that means, include everything you look at in your bibliography).

Steps you need to complete for these essays:

- 1) What is the primary source you plan to write on? You must write on one contained in the *Debating Truth* text (see Part II and pick from documents I through IX...you CANNOT do document X).
- 2) What secondary sources have you located regarding your primary source? Your *Debating Truth* text can count as one. You must locate 2 others. You will earn extra credit if you use a journal article located on JSTOR.
- 3) Introduce your primary source by describing its content as you understand it (that is, in your own words). You should be able to do this in a paragraph.
- 4) Introduce the historical context (background) for the primary source. Here your *Debating Truth* textbook will help. You should be able to do this in 3 paragraphs (more is okay, but 3-5 should be enough). Use one paragraph to talk about the historical background to the Disputation itself; use the second paragraph to talk about the broader context of how Christians interacted with Muslims and Jews during the Middle Ages; use one paragraph to talk about interactions between Church & State. Be sure to support your observations with specific and cited examples!
- 5) Explain why you think this primary source is important/interesting, particularly as related to what you have been leaning in this course.
- 6) Introduce the secondary sources you will be using for comparison. You will need to introduce your sources (author & title of book/article, website, etc.—Wikipedia is okay for this assignment) and give a brief overview of the texts, quoting directly relevant text. Do this for each secondary source (at least 2 sources expected beyond the *Debating Truth* textbook).
- 7) Compare and contrast the content as presented by your primary source to the secondary sources you have introduced. Be thorough in your discussion. Quote directly the materials you are comparing. Do the modern discussions of your event differ significantly from your primary source? If so, why do you think this might be?
- 8) Present your conclusion. Your conclusion should give a brief overview of what you have presented in your essay and your final analysis of your primary source...namely, how it helps us to better understand the Middle Ages.

Hist 101 H & V Primary Source Essay**Name:****Introduction to your essay:**

- 1) What is the primary source you plan to write on: _____
- 2) What secondary sources have you located regarding your primary source: _____
2 beyond *Debating Truth* text: _____
JSTOR journal extra credit: _____
- 3) Introduce your primary by describing its content as you understand it (that is, in your own words) : _____

Body of your essay:

- 4) Introduce the historical context (background) for the primary source: _____
As related to the Barcelona Disputation: _____
As related to Christian interactions with Muslims & Jews: _____
As related to interactions between Church & State: _____
Specific and cited examples for each: _____
- 5) Explain why you think this event is important/interesting as related to the course: _____
- 6) Introduce the secondary sources you will be using for comparison. You will need to introduce your source and give a brief overview of the text: _____
Quote directly relevant text: _____
Do this for each secondary source (2 required beyond *Debating Truth*): _____
- 7) Compare and contrast the event as presented by your primary source to the secondary sources you have introduced: _____
Quote directly the materials you are comparing: _____
Do the modern discussions of your event differ significantly from your primary source? If so, why do you think this might be? : _____

Conclusion of your essay:

- 8) Present your conclusion: _____
Brief overview of what you have presented and your final analysis of your primary source...namely, how it helps us to better understand the Middle Ages.

Formatting your essay:

- a) Format 3-5 pages, 12-pt font, 1-inch margins, double spaced: _____
- b) Bibliography included: _____
- c) Spelling and grammar errors: 1-2 3-4 5+ 10+
- d) Chicago or Turabian style: Yes No

Essay Grade:_____