“Heads Up” Essay Preparation

To begin preparing your essay, you will choose a topic from a list of questions distributed in class. Your essay will eventually answer this question. For this initial assignment, you will submit to your TA a bibliography of primary and secondary sources you hope to use to complete your essay along with a detailed review of one of the secondary sources. This review should be written with the question you have chosen to answer in mind. How will this secondary source help you write your essay?

See the Research Essay description for further information.

Length: maximum 3 pages

Due (in tutorial): 1 October – No late submissions without prior approval will be accepted

You are to submit BOTH a digital copy (using Turnitin.com) and a hard copy in tutorial.

Research Essay (Fall Term)

This assignment provides you with an opportunity to explore an aspect of Canadian history. You will be required to present your research and arguments in a well-written essay. Further instructions will be provided in class and on Quercus.

Your essay must be an answer to one of the following questions (see the link following the question for suggested, though not required secondary sources):

1. How did the inhabitants of New France practice Christianity? Consider the various institutions and personnel of the Catholic Church, settlers’ day-to-day access to these, and missionary work among First Nations.

2. What effects did the fur trade have on Indigenous societies? What new elements did trade introduce to these societies? What pre-existing elements did it alter, strengthen, or erase? It would be best to concentrate on a single region (e.g. the North Shore of the St. Lawrence, James Bay, the Northwest, or the Pacific Northwest) while describing in detail how these changes took place.

3. Canadians sometimes think of our history as “kinder and gentler” than that of other countries. Is this appropriate in the specific context of slavery?

4. How did the inhabitants of British North America and the United States, both Indigenous and settler, experience the War of 1812?

5. When and how did the Métis emerge as a distinct people? What events and processes were central to this process?
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6. If you had been a woman living in Canada during prior to 1867, what would your life had been like? You may answer this question in a broad sense, but it may be better to concentrate on a particular time and place and even on a particular social class and/or ethnicity.

7. How did the political parties in Upper and Lower Canada develop from the 1830s to the 1860s?

8. How was alcohol produced, consumed, imagined, and opposed in British North America in the mid-nineteenth century?

Length: 2,000-2,500 words

Due (in tutorial): **12 November**

You are to submit BOTH a digital copy (using Turnitin.com) and a hard copy in tutorial.

**Suggested Secondary Sources**


Arthur J. Ray and Donald Freeman, “Give Us Good Measure”: *An Economic Analysis of Relations Between the Indians and the Hudson’s Bay Company Before 1763* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1978)


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**Q5.** Chris Andersen, *“Métis”: Race, Recognition, and the Struggle for Indigenous Peoplehood* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2014)

Gerhard J. Ens and Joe Sawchuk, *From New Peoples to New Nations: Aspects of Métis History and Identity from the Eighteenth to the Twenty-First Centuries* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016)


Jan Noel, *Along a River: The First French-Canadian Women* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013)


**Q8.** Craig Heron, *Booze: A Distilled History* (Toronto: Between the Lines, 2003)

Jan Noel, *Canada Dry: Temperance Crusades before Confederation* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995)