History 235: Military History I

Experience of War Assignment

DUE

Hard copy due at the beginning of class on the date shown in the syllabus; digital copy due as NUoodle upload NLT 2355. The digital copy must be in .txt, .rtf, .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. Note: If the hard copy is late, it will be marked down one letter grade per day, starting on the day it is due. If the digital copy is not received on time, 10 points will be deducted.

Objectives

- learn how to conduct research in primary sources
- understand war and military service as experienced by those who lived them
- develop a deeper, more complex understanding of war
- improve your writing, citation, and analytical skills

Find two firsthand accounts

This module assignment will focus on firsthand accounts of the experience of war. Your task is to locate two such accounts for the same war. You can choose any war you like and you may include American participants. Since you'll be doing a similar module for your country study, you should try to find accounts for that country and war. At least one account must be a combat experience.

You can use any sort of firsthand account: diary, letter, memoir, interview. You may use any credible source: book, other publication, or credible web site. Your sources must be long enough to total at least 15 pages of reading. You might choose a chapter from a book, an in-depth interview, or several letters. Use a search engine to get more information on each soldier/author.

Answer these questions about your sources

1) On a cover page, put your name, the course number and section, the title of the assignment, and the date. Put your name only on the cover page, but number the pages.

2) Double space the body of the paper.

3) For each source, answer these questions, writing about two pages for each source.

   a. What is the source of your information? Identify exactly where you found the interview, memoir, etc. What is the nature of your source -- diary, letter, memoir, interview? Who is the author, and when was the source produced?

   b. Describe the experiences and motivations -- the experience of war -- of the author. Was the author a reliable witness? Did the author present any information that was hearsay or rumor? What did you learn about war from this soldier?

   c. How would a historian use this source?

4) On a new page, type "Comparison." Write at least 1.5-2 pages comparing the two sources. What did they teach you that you did not already know? How did they compare and contrast? How do they relate to the lectures, discussions, and textbook?
5) On a new page, type "Research Process." Describe how you found your sources, whether it was easy or difficult, whether there were many choices, what help you used, etc.

6) The final page will be "Works Cited."

**Cite your sources properly**

Cite your sources in proper Chicago bibliographic style, according to the *History Citation Guide* handout. That means using short form footnotes and including a "Works Cited" section. Footnote all quotations and other direct references to a source.

One of the key features of history papers is that you cite the sources of your information. It must be absolutely clear to the reader which ideas are your own analysis and which were someone else’s. Good citation shows that your work is open to verification and declares that you are intellectually honest.

**Research tips**

Books: Search the library catalog using these terms. Add terms to describe the country or war you've chosen. It's easiest to first find the subject headings for the war, then add a descriptor to find primary sources. Examples:

- War diaries.
- Soldiers -- Correspondence.
- Personal narratives

Example:

Persian Gulf War, 1991 Personal narratives, Iraqi.

Web sites: Use your favorite search engine. Your search terms can be looser, but you'll need to refine them. Use a term to describe the country or war you've chosen, in quotation marks; add a second term to get sources. Examples:

"Iran-Iraq War" memoirs or interviews or firsthand accounts

You will learn additional research strategies in the class library session.

**Web sites**

Some sample web sites include:

- http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/voicesofwar
- http://english.iremember.ru

**Don't plagiarize**

All papers will be submitted to Turnitin to verify academic honesty and originality.

**Style, Spelling, Grammar**

Norwich students are expected to write clear, correct English with proper spelling. Use a spell checker—but be aware that the computer can’t correct mistakes like loose/lose or it’s/its.

Sloppy or poorly written papers will be graded down. Consider consulting the Academic Achievement Center to improve your work.

**Avoid things that can make you fail!**
1. Any paper that does not include citations will automatically receive a D or F; if citations are inadequate in quantity or format, a ten percent penalty will be incurred.
2. Any paper that is below the minimum requirements will automatically receive a D or F.
3. Any form of plagiarism will result in failure.
4. Failure to upload a digital copy of your paper by the due date and time will result in a ten percent penalty on the assignment grade.