HIST 33D: JOURNAL & FINAL PROJECT HANDOUT

§1. For the writing assignment in this course you are required to keep a **journal** on a regular basis throughout the course. You will write about **two entries per week** (total of 8), with each entry averaging about 450 words in length. That is about 3/4 page, *single-spaced*, in 12 point font.

§2. Each entry will be based on your thoughts about **newspaper or magazine articles** you read during that week, or **readings, lectures and films for this course**. Occasionally, web sites, books for another course, conversations or personal experiences may be appropriate. *You should relate the issues you discuss to the course topic.* For articles you should include a clipping, copy, or printout. There should be a rough balance of entries on articles and on course materials.
For the entries on the course material, feel free to exercise criticism, ask questions, and raise important issues, especially if you are uncomfortable doing so in class. You will be graded on how insightful your discussion or how convincing your argument is, not on whether you agree with me. Tip: Jot ideas down during lecture or whenever, and develop them later.

§3. In **a large bluebook**, use the **first right-hand page** to keep a handwritten running **table of contents** with the **entry number** (1-8), the **source and date**, and a **short descriptive title**. Example:
1. LA Times, Sept. 1, 2003, "White House Likens Iraq to Postwar Germany to Retain Support"
2. LA Times, Sept. 8, 2003, "The Race Factor: Thousands of African Americans will donate …"
3. Oct. 4, 2003, *Maus* and the "Gray Zone" Grid [from lecture]

§4. In the rest of the bluebook, glue, tape or staple the **article** (or photocopy) on **the left hand page**, and attach your *typed* entry *facing it* on the **right hand page**. Write the **entry number** in the upper right hand corner. (You do not need to photocopy course materials.)
Please single space to fit each journal entry on one page. Each entry should begin with the **date and a short headline** indicating the source and topic of your entry.

§5. In each entry you should first **briefly summarize** the relevant information in the article (or whatever), for about ¼ of the entry. The main portion should be your **thoughts** and **analysis** of the article, relating it to the course topic.
You should NOT write vague opinions or make unsubstantiated claims.
Rather, you should **explain** your opinion, giving clear **reasons** and pertinent **evidence**.
(If you are unclear on this, see the **professor's example** on the course web site.)

§6. Journals will be **collected** several times over the course of the quarter, at the beginning of class. Collection dates will be announced in advance. I expect about 2 entries per week.

§7. The journals will be **graded** as follows: each entry can receive up to 4 points for a total of 32. The grading scale will be √-, √, √+, or +. No entry: 0 points. Late entry: -1 point per day.

FINAL PROJECTS: PROPOSAL AND WEB PAGE

§8. **Finding a topic.** A good way to find a topic is to look though the textbook, the course reader, and the course web site for ideas. When you find something you would like to know more about, check for bibliographical references. If you have trouble finding a topic, or literature on a topic, please come to talk to me—sooner rather than later!

§9. **Proposal Format.** The purpose of the proposal is to find a suitable topic of interest. It should have three main elements:

1. a *descriptive title* that indicates the main theme you are interested in.
2. a *short description and explanation* of your topic, including an explicit list of a few questions that you hope the book will address.
3. *full reference or bibliographic information* on three or four web sites and books that you think may be relevant, including URL, site author/hosting institution, or library call number.

§10. **Forming groups**. I encourage you to talk among yourselves and find other students with similar topics. I will facilitate the formation of groups in class.

§11. **Proposal grading.** The proposal will be marked √-,√, or √+. A √- must be resubmitted until the professor approves the project. The photocopied review(s) are worth 4 additional points.

PROJECT DRAFT

§12. By the end of week 6 each group should submit a preliminary version of ALL parts of their final project. Each project should include most of the following:
a) introductory text for homepage: narrative introduction, thesis statement(s), and description of content of rest of site;
b) annotated bibliography;
c) annotated linkography;
d) in-depth reviews of some books and web sites;
e) collection of thumbnail images, with captions, including sources (URLs or books);
f) "authors" page with information about project members and narrative about research process;

FINAL VERSION

§13. **Individual contributions.** It should be clear who made or contributed to each part of the project. Sign a page you alone created, initial your linkography and bibliography annotations, sign "written by x and edited by y" for collaborative texts. Half of the grade will be based on your contribution, half on the overall quality.

§14. **Content/Grading.** When I grade, I look for five things. *First*, a *thesis statement* tells me the purpose of the project, what it is trying to elucidate, argue or explain. *Second*, I look for an *argument* supporting that thesis. *Third*, I look for concrete *evidence*—specific cases or examples—used to support the elements of the argument.
Texts and annotations with any two of these three is a "C;" all three elements earn a "B."
Fourth, I look *counterevidence* or *comparisons*—whether you assess the material relative to other works. If the first three elements are also present, this brings a contribution into the "A" range.
Finally, I look to see whether the texts are *carefully written* and proofread, and have clear organization or perhaps even stylistic grace. This can lift a project up to a "+" or, with numerous typos and errors, drop it down to a "–."

§15. **Due dates.** Proposals Oct. 14 (beginning of week 4); drafts Oct. 30 (end of week 6); final Nov. 20 (week 9).
Late submissions will be penalized one point per day, beginning at 11am.

§16. **Web publication.** The final projects should also be submitted by e-mail or on disk. They can be in word-processor format or in html. I will work with each group to publish the projects on the web.

§17. **Presentations.** I would like each group to present their work to the class. We will have time during the final class meetings (including evening sessions) to do this.

§18. **Plagiarism**—presenting someone else's work as your own, or deliberately failing to credit or attribute the work of others on whom you draw (including materials found on the web)—is a serious academic offense, punishable by dismissal from the university. It hurts the one who commits it most of all, by cheating them out of an education. Offenses will be reported to the appropriate university authorities for disciplinary action.