

HIST 101-082N WESTERN CIVILIZATION I: PAPER

Requirements: Write a 4-6 page paper. The paper should be typed and double-spaced. Your paper should have 12-point font, Times New Roman, and 1-inch margins on all sides. This paper should answer the following question:

Question: Choose just ***ONE*** of the three questions to answer:

(1) Coinage was a vital tool in western civilization. Compare and contrast the coinage systems of three ancient western civilizations of your choice (from the Sumerians through the Franks). What similarities existed, if any, in the coinage systems of the three civilizations you examined? What differences existed in these coinage systems? What were the values of the coins minted in each of the three civilizations you chose? How were the coins shaped?

(2) The collapse of the Roman Empire was one of the most pivotal moments in western civilization. Identify **three different explanations** offered by **three different historians** for the downfall of the Roman Empire. Explain the reasoning provided by those historians to verify their case. *In your opinion, which of the three explanations you examined makes the most sense and why?* (Note: there is no right or wrong answer to that italics question. The key to answering that question is how you provide justification for your opinion on that question. Use specific examples to help you with that.)

(3) Choose three civilizations of your choice in ancient western civilization. Examine their religious traditions. Describe the similarities and differences between all three of them. What holidays or festivals were observed by those three civilizations? Were those holidays or festivals borrowed by other civilizations or were they original? Be specific with all of your answers.

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Example:

The Romans modified battle formations with the addition of the legion (John Smith, *Battle Formations*, 367).

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