

CAP111: Writing for Cultural Literacy/CAP121: How Do You Know?

Unit I: How Do You Know About Current Conflicts -- Examining the Deep History of the Situation

Note:

Throughout this unit, you should be gathering news sources. We will provide you with information about how to do that and what kinds of new sources to gather. Until Sept. 11, you will be gathering reactions to the anniversary of the attacks. After Sept. 11, you will collect sources on the Middle East conflict, with special attention to the claims for the land by both Israelis and Palestinians.

Assignment 1a: Summary of Armstrong, ch. 3

Draft Workshop: Sept. 4

Due: Mon., Sept. 9 at the beginning of class

Using the information provided by your textbooks about critical reading and summarizing, write a 2-page summary of chapter 3 of Karen Armstrong, *Holy War* (the page limits for this assignment will be strictly enforced). Your summary should identify the main ideas of the chapter and restate them in your own words. Be sure that you demonstrate how parts of the chapter relate to each other (you can discuss the organizational structure of the chapter or how the writer moves from one point to the next).

The main challenge you will face is avoiding plagiarism. Phrases from Armstrong should be quoted and main ideas should be cited with page references. Use quotes sparingly. A good rule of thumb is that no more than 10% of your paper should consist of quotes and paraphrases of Armstrong. Avoid giving your opinion of Armstrong's argument--your task is to rephrase without evaluating. Use the APA documentation style described in NCH, pp. 311-27.

Assignment 1b: Evaluation of a Disciplinary Source and Its Appeal

Draft Workshop: Sept. 18

Due: **Friday**, Sept. 20 to individual teachers by 3:00pm

On September 9 and 11, you will hear about disciplinary perspectives on the Crusades in CAP121. To apply what you learn on those days and to prepare for the unit project, you will receive 4 disciplinary perspectives on the current conflict between Israelis and the Palestinians over the land (called variously *Eretz Israel*, Falastin, or the Holy Land). Two of the sources will represent Israeli perspectives and two will represent Palestinian viewpoints; each source will represent a different discipline. Choose one disciplinary perspectives and write a 2-3 page evaluation of the source. In your evaluation, you should explain how the source(s) reveal information about the current conflict:

- identify those aspects of the current conflict discussed in the sources you choose.
- how does the disciplinary source focus our attention on those aspects?
- what kind of information is provided?
- what do we end up knowing about the conflict that we would not have known otherwise?
- what is the extent of the information provided?

- discuss limitations to the source that your reader should be aware of.

You should cite the source, the class lectures, and any other material that is relevant to your discussion. Use APA documentation style correctly.

Unit Project 1C (Linked Assignment): The Cases for the Land

Draft Workshops: Sept. 25 and 30

Due: Wednesday, Oct. 2 at the beginning of class

Your task in this assignment is to analyze the basis for the Israeli and Palestinian claims to the land known as *Eretz Israel*, Falastin, or the Holy Land. Using Armstrong, other class readings, the disciplinary sources provided for Assignment 1b, and the major news sources you have gathered up to this point in the semester, examine the claims that each side makes for possession. You should avoid making a decision about which side's claims are better. You may choose to organize the essay by discussing first one set of claims and then the other, using your introduction and conclusion to pull the two sets of claims together. You may also choose to organize the essay by finding common themes within the sets of claims that you can compare and contrast. You need not try to cover every claim for both sides; pick the claims you determine are most relevant or important. The essay should be 5-6 pages in length. Use APA documentation style correctly.