

UBC Geography 426: The Historical Geography of British Columbia.

Final Term Paper.

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Final Paper Guidelines.

Please get a one-page paper proposal in to me as soon as possible (or by **Thursday October 6** at the absolute latest). Hard copy please, not electronic. This proposal should outline both the topic you intend to explore, and the sources you will use to support your analysis.

The term paper itself is due on **Thursday November 24**. If you don't have it ready for class, please hand it in to the main geography office, room 217, where the staff will date-stamp it for you. Late papers will be penalized by 10% per day. The paper should be 7 to 8 pages, not including bibliography, figures etc (approx 2000 words); it is worth 25% of your final mark.

Your task here is to write a critical assessment of a topic that interests you, ideally something about which you'd like to learn more. It need not necessarily be a subject that we are covering in the class, but it must have something to do with both British Columbia and the past.

Begin with a very clear question or thesis statement. This question or statement should structure the focus of every single sentence in your paper. Most of your information will come from secondary sources (at least six), but you must make use of at least three distinct primary sources to support your argument. Class readings can be used, but they will not count against the secondary source requirement. When writing, assume that I, as the marker, do not agree with your argument, so anticipate dissenting points of view!

Maps, graphs and charts are good, so long as they add weight to your argument. They are not tools for filling up space.

I look forward to reading all of your papers, and at the end of term I will let you know when and where you can pick them up again. If you prefer, I can send your marked essay to you in the mail. If you want that to happen, please give me an addressed, postage-paid envelope with your paper when you hand it in.

See over for marking rubric.

The marking rubric is as follows,

Did the student hand in a proposal? Yes/No.

Empirical Content:

- clear thesis statement or question to be answered
- argument or question is logical, well explored, analytical
- evidence is adequate, accurate and supports claims being made
- analysis of evidence is sufficient, and supports thesis statement,
- paper anticipates and defuses counter-arguments
- student is critical of sources
- student clearly delimits paper's bounds, and suggests avenues for future work

Creativity:

- paper is insightful
- topic covered in sufficient depth
- original, innovative, creative

Structural Elements:

- appropriate length
- writing is clear, careful and polished
- maps, figures, tables are clear, relevant, and well-integrated
- consistent use of proper citations
- proper bibliography with sufficient use of relevant scholarly sources