

Thought Essay on Neighboring Faiths

Deadline and Submission Process

The final essay should be submitted by 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2015, via the UCCS Blackboard course website. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior consent is granted. If you encounter any difficulties with submitting your paper via Blackboard, please email Dr. Martinez (rmartin8@uccs.edu) a MS Word document or Adobe Acrobat PDF file.

Sources for Your Paper

For this assignment, please use *Neighboring Faiths* by David Nirenberg. Specifically, focus on Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7; you are not required to use the other chapters. Remember to cite all sources properly.

Paper Content

Please respond to this prompt:

David Nirenberg argues in *Neighboring Faiths* that Jews, Christians, and Muslims had significant influence on the development on their “neighboring” faiths and cultures. That is, Jews influenced Christians and Muslims, Christians effected Muslims and Jews, and Muslims impacted Christians and Jews. Using at least three specific examples from the book, please:

- (1) Demonstrate how each faith (Jewish, Christian, and Muslim) group influenced at least one of the others.
- (2) Describe if this influence was welcomed or spurned by the other faith group(s). (Were there benefits/consequences to accepting or rejecting the influence?)
- (3) Explain why those who were influenced (for example, a Christian who was impacted by a Muslim) allowed themselves to be changed. (Did they choose to adapt or were they forced to change?)

Preparing and Formatting of Your Essay

- Your essay should be three to four pages long.
- You should argue a position in your essay, i.e., use a thesis statement.
- Use 11 or 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double-spacing, and page numbering.
- Use a topic sentence to start each paragraph, so that the reader knows what you intend on arguing within it.
- Use a proper introduction, body (several paragraphs), and a brief conclusion in your paper. Indent the start of each paragraph.
- You should use and/or quote specific examples from the reading to support your thoughts. Use *The Chicago Manual of Style* to footnote your sources. See Dr. Martinez’s [Writing Resources for Students](http://bit.ly/16tj9SV) at <http://bit.ly/16tj9SV>. Please use a Works Cited/Bibliography page, especially if you are referencing other material not being used in this class.
- Please staple your paper together and attach a copy of the grading rubric to the back of your paper.

HIST 1020: Medieval Europe
Grading Rubric for a Thought Essay on

Neighboring Faiths

Minimum Requirements (All aspects must be fulfilled to receive a grade of “B minus” or better):

Requirements	Yes	No
1. Is this rubric stapled/attached to their paper?		
2. Does the paper utilize a proper introduction, body, and conclusion?		
3. Does this paper present a topic sentence that argues their position?		
4. Does the paper use at least three examples from the book?		
5. Does the paper use footnotes properly?		
6. Is the paper at least three pages in length?		
7. Is there a works cited/bibliography included?		

Stylistic Considerations (To earn an “A” or “B,” all considerations must be rated “Very Good” or better):

Issues	Needs Work	Displays Basic Competence	Better Than Average	Very Good	Excellent
1. No grammatical errors, writing mistakes, awkward phrases, run-on sentences, or fragments.					
2. No spelling mistakes or uses of a word incorrectly.					
3. No slang or overly “conversational” text.					
4. Definitely uses topic sentences to start each paragraph.					
5. Definitely uses examples and cites where those examples appear in the text correctly. Definitely quotes some text and paraphrases other portions of the text.					
6. Definitely completes all aspects of the assignment.					

Argument/Content Considerations (To earn an “A” or “B,” all considerations must be rated “Very Good” or better):

Does this paper...?	Needs Work	Displays Basic Competence	Better Than Average	Very Good	Excellent
1. Make compelling points in reference to the prompt?					
2. Use evidence effectively to prove their position?					

Three Overall Comments on Your Paper:

Letter Grade: