

Thought Essay on
The Saint and the Chopped-Up Baby

Deadline and Submission Process

A partial draft of this essay (the first two pages) should be completed by Tuesday, February 17th. Please bring your essay to class because we reviewing them in small groups. The final essay should be submitted on Tuesday, February 24th at the beginning of class. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior consent was granted.

Sources for Your Paper

For this assignment, please use the text: *The Saint and the Chopped-Up Baby: The Cult of Vincent Ferrer in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* by Laura Ackerman Smoller. Please also feel free to use any other texts, articles, and/or videos that may be relevant to the topic. Remember to cite all sources properly.

Paper Content

Within Smoller's work, she uses the idea of "lived religion," or the way in which people use religious ideas to shape the worlds they make for themselves, as well as how religious sayings and practices are formed in those worlds.¹ Smoller also discusses how the life and canonization of Saint Vincent Ferrer was created into an "official image." She cites how diverse people, places, and even periods of time, which span across oceans and centuries, used the saint for their own societal needs. After thinking about these statements, please prepare an essay that addresses some of these questions.

What ideas are used to support the notion of "lived religion"? How did people (from the fifteenth century through the eighteenth century) use the almost folkloric tale of Saint Vincent Ferrer to their advantage? What does this reveal to you about their society especially during a time when the Catholic Church was gaining significant power over the control of the canonization of saints? What other instances can you think of where a historical story is transformed to meet the needs of a particular society?

Your essay should not only answer these questions – it should offer a comprehensive argument.

Preparing and Formatting of Your Essay

- Your essay should be two 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 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.

¹“Faculty Spotlight: Smoller’s Work in Progress,” The University of Arkansas at Little Rock, last modified May 11, 2011, <http://ualr.edu/ma/list/index.php/2011/05/11/faculty-spotlight-smollers-work-in-progress/>.

HIST 1030: Early Modern Europe
Grading Rubric for a Thought Essay on

*The Saint and the Chopped-Up Baby: The Cult of Vincent Ferrer
in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*

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 reference the book at least twice to prove their position?		
5. Does the paper use footnotes properly?		
6. Is the paper at least two page 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: