

*HIST 4130*  
*Final Comparative Analysis Paper*

Paper Overview:

In *Muslims and Christians in Norman Sicily*, Alex Metcalf describes the combining of two different cultures in Sicily. In the thesis of Chapter 9 he states:

It would be difficult to deny that the “Norman” kingdom of Sicily was anything but enormously fragmented and had been forcibly cobbled together from areas and peoples that were geographically, linguistically, religiously, administratively, culturally, and politically diverse.<sup>1</sup>

Analyze this statement using these questions.

1. Do you disagree or agree with Metcalf's idea?
2. Why? If you disagree explain how you view the society of Norman Sicily in contrast with Metcalf.
3. From what you have learned this semester, what other SOC's (Spheres of Contact) could be described using this thesis? Compare and contrast Sicily with your choice(s) of SOC's.

Paper Qualifications:

- Submit via UCCS Blackboard by 5 p.m. on May 15, 2015. If you have difficulties submitting, please email a copy to [rmartin8@uccs.edu](mailto:rmartin8@uccs.edu)
- 4-5 pages in length
- 12 pt. Times Roman, Arial, or comparable font
- 1 Inch margins
- Chicago Style with Bibliography

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<sup>1</sup> Alex Metcalf, *Muslims and Christians in Norman Sicily*, (New York: Routledge Press, 2003), 174.

\*\*\*\*Tips for getting a good grade on this paper\*\*\*\*

\*\*Have a clear thesis

\*\*Citations and footnotes are important

\*\*Quotes should be used. However, they should be accompanied with your analysis. Do not simply use quotes to fill space (Yes, we can tell!)

\*\*Bibliography

\*\*Read the Rubric...If you cannot check "yes" in each category, you cannot get an A.

\*\*Have someone (or a few someones) read your paper...if they have to ask you what you mean, I will be wondering the same thing!

\*\*Read your paper out loud. If you are taking breaths during sentences because you are running out of air, then your sentence is probably too long! If you stumble on your words, then your wording is probably choppy and clumsy. These minor errors can cost you points.

\*\*Ask questions. If you are confused, it is better to ask than do something wrong.

\*\*Use your resources. Your professor is here to help. The Writing Center is designed to assist you. They are happy to show you possible issues.

## Rubric for Comparative Analysis

### **#1 Thesis (20 Points/%)**

A) Was there a thesis statement in this Paper? Did it follow the assignment guidelines?

Yes (Continue to B)  No (Stop: 0 Points)

B) How clear and concise was the thesis?

**Poor:** It was hard to find and/or was not detailed enough (5 pts)

**Average:** It was ascertainable but not descriptive enough to be a good thesis (10 pts)

**Good:** It stated the goals of the paper sufficiently (15 pts)

**Awesome:** It was very clear and gave an exact account of the argued points (20 pts)

### **#2 Argumentation (20 Points/%)**

A) Was the concept of the thesis maintained throughout the paper?

Yes (Continue to B)  No (Stop: 0 Points)

B) How well did you articulate your arguments?

**Poorly:** The paper didn't refer back to the thesis very often (5 pts)

**Average:** Some of the paper kept in line with the thesis (10 pts)

**Good:** Most of the paper followed the concepts of the thesis (15 pts)

**Awesome:** The thesis remained the cornerstone throughout the paper (20 pts)

### **#3 Readability and Organization (20 Points/%)**

A) Was the paper comprehensible and audience appropriate?

Yes (Continue to B)  No (Stop: 0 Points)

B) How well was the paper written? How did the author do in creating a piece that his/her peers would want to read?

**Poor:** The language was choppy or non-comprehensible due to either a lack of transitions, poor sentence structure, or both. I had to read many sentences multiple times to understand their points. The language seems to be below college level. (5 pts)

**Average:** Points and arguments were made but there were some instances of confusion and unclear argumentation. There were parts that had to be read a couple times to comprehend the meaning. It needs improvement for a college level paper. (10 pts)

**Good:** I understood what you were saying. There were only a couple parts that needed clarification. Perhaps reading the paper aloud would help with troubled spots. (15 pts)

**Awesome:** I never had to read a section multiple times and your language was college-level appropriate. (20 pts)

**#4 Mechanics (15 Points/%)**

The amount of grammatical and/or spelling errors are a distraction to this paper (5 pts)

The errors are present but not so much to be a distraction. (10 pts.)

Spell check was good to you! (15 pts.)

**#5 Citations (15 Points/%)**

A) Was Chicago style used in this paper?

Yes (Continue to B)  No (Stop: 0 Points)

B) How well did you use Chicago style?

**Poorly:** Footnotes and/or Bibliography present but not used properly. (5 pts)

**Average:** Correct formation of Footnotes and Bibliography but some instances of non-use of footnotes when necessary. (10 pts)

**Good:** Perfect or near perfect use of footnotes. Bibliography and Footnotes are correctly written. (15 pts)

**#6 Assignment Guidelines (10 Points/%)**

A) Were the requirements of the Assignment met?

All (10 pts)  Most (5 pts)  None (0 pts)

**Bonus: (Can only be applied if #6 is checked "All")**

Did the author meet with Dr. Martinez, DeV or the Writing Center (with documentation) for assistance?

Yes (5 pts)  No (0 pts)

**Overall paper comments:**

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