Assignment # 2: Research Paper

CONTENT

This course requires a research paper. The paper summarizes your investigation of published sources on a current issue or problem in Human Origins, selected in consultation with your professor. Your treatment of the topic reflects anthropological and scientific perspectives as well as ideas and evidence discussed in this course.

The paper includes:

- prior consultation with instructor [10 pts]
- an interesting, creative title [2 pts]
- an introduction that identifies the theme of your research and ends with a clearly stated thesis [10 pts]
- a summary of the literature providing background and context for your study [15 pts]
- evidence from studies addressing the problem you have selected [10 pts]
- analysis that applies appropriate methods and theories and leads to an answer to your question [20 pts]
- conclusion that restates main points and reiterates your evaluation [10 pts]
- useful illustrations (fossils, tools, maps, etc.) appropriately captioned and cited [8 pts]
- American Journal of Physical Anthropology (AJPA) style "References Cited" page [5 pts]
- careful editorial grooming (spelling, vocabulary, grammar, transitions, AJPA format citations) [10 pts]

Total: 100 points

RESEARCH

Your paper uses and cites published sources (primary and secondary, monographs, books, and journal articles; not web pages, dictionaries, encyclopedias). Journal articles provide more than half of your material. The number of sources needed varies depending upon the topic you choose. Discuss your research strategy and progress with your instructor.

The completed paper has a text of at least 8 and not (much) more than 10 double-spaced, typed, edited, numbered pages. Maps, illustrations, appendices, references cited, etc. are additional pages. The page requirement for graduate students is 15 pages + references and supplemental information. All graphical material must be mentioned in the text by figure number and presented with a figure number, a caption composed by you, and complete citation of source (unless original). Illustration sources are integrated with other data sources in the alphabetized References Cited.

CONSULTATION

It is important that each member of the class either stop by my office (Dean 207) or email me to discuss your topic and progress towards completing this assignment. Pay particular attention to the following:

- It is imperative that you determine there are sufficient journal articles and other printed sources available before committing to a particular topic.
• Include a typed description of your research topic, including a thesis statement, a formal outline of your paper, and list of References Cited you’ve found so far.

• I will review rough drafts of your paper provided that it is sent to me well in advance of the deadline.

MECHANICS
Your ideas are important. The form and style in which you cast them are also important because they are your means of communication and your acknowledgment of debts to other scholars.

The title of your paper is important. Your title should convey useful information about the contents of your study without implying that this is the definitive work on the subject. Try to work in key words revealing species, time frame, geographic context, anatomy and/or behavior, theoretical stance, research’s name, etc.

It is assumed that you have received formal training in writing a documented research paper and understand how to paraphrase material, how to quote the words of another author, and when to cite sources. Each discipline has its own set of conventions for preparing scholarly papers. Since you are going to be reading physical anthropology and/or archaeology for this paper, you should prepare your citations and list of references cited according to *American Journal of Physical Anthropology (AJPA)* style. Any recent article in *AJPA* will serve as a good model for your paper. You are encouraged to explore the *AJPA* style guide.

Your research paper must be typed. Make sure that you edit, spell check, and thoroughly proofread your paper. Number the pages. Use gender specific language accurately and judiciously; otherwise select gender neutral terms and constructions. Avoid terms that depersonalize, stereotype, or romanticize, etc.