

HIS103

Niagara University

Fall 2020

Final Project Instructions

How do contemporary Americans USE early American history in pursuit of their own ends? Whether it's to tell a story about their heritage, support their political stances, or just for fun, people USE history all the time.

- For this assignment, you will find 3 artifacts: news stories, op-eds, memes, social media posts, Tweets, or any contemporary document that USES early American history to make an argument about the present. You can choose objects that make an argument about ANY event specific to 2020. For example, Covid-19, BLM, Election 2020, US political party platforms, or the US Postal Service, just to name a few. **Please explore the sources I have suggested to you and choose your objects WISELY. There are plenty of professional historians as well as history amateurs out there who make references to historical events and people in order to make comments on events today.**
 - <https://nursingcliclo.org/articles/> (Links to an external site.)
 - [\(Links to an external site.\)https://digpodcast.org/episodes/](https://digpodcast.org/episodes/) (Links to an external site.)
 - https://twitter.com/hc_richardson?s=21 (Links to an external site.)
 - <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com> (Links to an external site.)
 - <https://www.backstoryradio.org> (Links to an external site.)
- Your artifacts must use historical events from a range of units: one object related to units 1 & 2 (Pre-Columbian America up to and including the Jumonville Game), one object related to units 3 & 4 (Origins of the American Revolution through and including antebellum Religion and Reform), and one object related to units 5 & 6 (Cotton Revolution up to and including Reconstruction). **I recommend that you review all of the course content from each of these three sections in order to identify the best ways to contextualize your chosen objects. This is your final exam. You must demonstrate mastery of the content from the course.**
- Using these three artifacts to structure your arguments **[make sure you actually embed the items into your paper- whether they be images or links to an article or blog post or podcast- I must be able to access the item as I read your papers]**, you will write a 3-5 page reflection essay on how people alive today interpret and use early American history to inform or influence current events. This project is in lieu of a final exam so I expect you to use the artifacts you submitted to the archive and the essay you write about them to demonstrate the breadth and depth of your understanding of early American history.

- **For each object, you MUST:**
- explain the historical context that informs the object. **IN DETAIL.** What must you know about early American history in order to interpret this object well?
- explain the events, people, ideas, etc. that are dealt with by the object **IN DETAIL**
- analyze the meaning of the object **USING YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF CONTENT FROM THE COURSE:** Does the object make a fair assessment of current events based on your knowledge of the history? Does the object misuse or abuse history to make a point about the present? How so? Does the object use the history effectively to make a point about the present? How so?
- demonstrate your expertise on early American history from each of the three time periods outlined above **USING DETAILED CONTENT FROM THE COURSE**
- **Lastly, but also crucial to receive a "final exam" grade for this course, you must submit your 3 artifacts + your essay to ASU's Covid-19 archive Journal of the Plague Year using their [Share your Story form \(Links to an external site.\)](#).** These artifacts that you've chosen and your reflections about them will be curated and archived for the use of future historians. We will discuss the mechanics of submitting your artifacts to the archive in class on Mon. Nov. 23.
- When you create your submission, please include the hashtags #HIS103 and #NiagaraUniversity in the field that asks you to select hastags