

History 342: Modern Germany (McCole)

**Assignment: analysis of one of the weekly readings**

*Length:* 2-3 pages, double-spaced, with normal font, margins, and spacing

*Due date:* Your analysis is due no later than the start of class on the day the piece is discussed. No late submissions allowed; if you don't make the weekly deadline, you'll have to choose a later week.

*Weight:* 10% of your course grade

To complete this course requirement, during the term you must submit a written analysis of one of the weekly readings that is not a chapter in the textbook. As we go through the term, I'll make it clear which readings are eligible. Some of these will be primary source documents, others will be chapters in an interpretive historical work, and yet others will be scholarly articles.

You must only do this ONCE, not every week. (Although you should come prepared for discussion every Friday.)

Your analysis should do two things:

1. Provide a synopsis of the document, chapter, or article.
2. Explain the significance of the piece in terms of one or more larger issues we are examining in this course.

A few words about the synopsis: it should be an intelligent, well-considered précis that captures the main points in the piece, not just a list of unconnected points. If the piece is a secondary source, it should state the thesis or main argument being made. Writing a good synopsis will take some thought. You may quote, but do so *sparingly*; a string of quotations is not an analysis. Since I will know your source, you may place page references in parentheses within your paper.

You will find the reading/discussion questions helpful, but don't simply string together a list of answers to those questions.