

LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays

**HISTORY 1130-103/104:
*Themes in Global History:
Trade, Economy, and Empires***

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LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays

STRUCTURE OF THE LECTURE:

USING SOURCES

Using primary sources

Using secondary sources

Three databases as examples: Maddison, NBER,
Hensel

ESSAY WRITING

Basics

General advice on essay writing

Specific issues

Group work: What aspects do you find most difficult
in writing essays?

LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays**USING SOURCES****Source:**

<http://www.northpark.edu/history/Classes/Basics/UsingSources.html>

✚ Introduction

✚ Using Primary Sources:

✚ Reading a primary source: A) Place in historical context; B) Classify source; C) Understand the source; D) Evaluate as source of historical information

✚ ALSO: Try to develop your own interpretation, challenge the findings!

✚ Using Secondary Sources:

✚

✚

LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays**EVALUATING AN INTERPRETATION:****A) The Argument:**

- What problem being addressed?
- What is the argument?
- How has this person arrived at the argument? (What kind of publication, methods, sources, theoretical grounding, school of thought, transparency)

B) The Evaluation:

- How convincing is the argument? (Vis-à-vis evidence, methods etc.)
- Are methods suited to the analysis of the problem?
- Unanswered questions
- Possible agenda behind argument

LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays**EVALUATING AN INTERPRETATION:****C) The Debate:**

- Compare with others in the field
- What kinds of differences?
- Why such differences? (Sources, methods, theories, viewpoints etc.)
- When written?
- Backgrounds of authors
-

**LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays****Angus Maddison's Home Page**

<http://www.eco.rug.nl/%7EMaddison/>

CONTENTS OF INTEREST:**Articles and papers**

- Contours of the World Economy and the Art of Macromasurement 1500-2001
- European Capitalism: A Historical and Comparative Perspective
- A Long-Run Perspective on Saving
- USSR: Assessing the Performance of a Communist Economy
- Brazil 1500-1929
- Brazil 1500-2000
- Economic Progress: The Last Half Century in Historical Perspective (From website of Academy of Social Sciences in Australia)
- Growth Accounts, Technological Change, and the Role of Energy in Western Growth
- Macromasurement before and after Colin Clark

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CONTENTS OF INTEREST (Continued):**Books**

- Chinese Economic Performance in the Long Run
- Monitoring the World Economy, 1820-1992
- The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective (From OECD website)
- Chapter 1:Contours of World Development
- Appendix B: World Population and GDP before 1820
- The World Economy: Historical Statistics (From OECD website)
- HS-7: The World Economy 1950-2001
- HS-8: The World Economy 1-2001 AD

Historical Statistics

World Population, GDP and Per Capita GDP, 1-2001 AD

QUESTION: Where did Maddison get all this information? Any weaknesses in the data?

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<http://www.nber.org/data/>

Macro Data (examples)

- Official Business Cycle Dates (NBER)
- Experimental Coincident, Leading and Recession Indexes (Stock, Watson)
- Penn-World Tables, Mark 6.1 (Summers, Heston, Aten)
- Barro-Lee (Barro, Lee)
- A History of U.S. Foreign-Exchange-Market Interventions (Bordo, Humpage, Schwartz)
- Occupational Wages around the World (Freeman, Oostendorp)
- Macro History Database (NBER)
- Savings, Investment, and Gold in 13 countries (1850-1945) (Jones, Obstfeld)
- "Historical Cross-Country Technological Adoption: Dataset" (Comin, Hobijn)

Industry Data

- Manufacturing Industry Productivity Database (Bartelsman, Becker, Gray)

International Trade Data

- Price Quantity Indexes and Values for U.S. Exports and Imports, 1879-1923 (Lipsey)
- U.S. Tariffs, 1989-2001 (Romalis)

Data for economists interested in current and past problems, mainly 19th and 20th century data

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National Bureau of Economic Research

Jones-Obstfeld Saving, Investment, and Gold Data for 13 Countries

Data						
Years	All Files, Pkzipped	MS Excel (Original version)	ASCII Tab-delimited text			
			Final	National Accounts	Gold	Notes
1861-1945	Australia	Australia	Final	Natl Ac	Gold	Notes
			Mint	Curr Ac	Misc	UK Gold
1870-1945	Canada	Canada	Final	Natl Ac	Gold	Notes
1874-1914	Denmark	Denmark	Final	Natl Ac	Gold	Notes
1872-1945	Finland	Finland	Final	Natl Ac	Gold	Notes
1851-1913 1919-1938	France	France	Final	Natl Ac	Gold	Notes
1877-1913	Germany	Germany	Final	Natl Ac	Gold	Notes
1861-1936	Italy	Italy	Final	Natl Ac	Gold	Notes
1885-1944	Japan	Japan	Final	Natl Ac	Gold	Notes
1865-1939	Norway	Norway	Final	Natl Ac	Gold	Notes
1885-1913	Russia	Russia	Final	Natl Ac	Gold	Notes
1875-1945	Sweden	Sweden	Final	Natl Ac	Gold	Notes
1869-1945	U.K.	U.K.	Final	Natl Ac	Gold	Notes
1870-1945	U.S.	U.S.	Final	Kuznets	NBER	Notes
				USHS	Curr Ac	

LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays**PAUL HENSEL'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DATA PAGE**

<http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/%7Ephensel/data.html>

International Data (General)

States and the International System
 Alliances, Treaties, and Organizations
 International Geographic Data
 Social Science Data Collections

International Conflict and Cooperation Data

Militarized Disputes, Crises, and Wars
 Interstate Rivalry
 Event Data

Internal Conflict
 Other Conflict and Cooperation

International Economic Data

General Economic Data
 Economic Capabilities
 Trade
 Development
 Military Expenditures and Arms Transfers
 Regional Economic Data

LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays**PAUL HENSEL'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DATA PAGE**

<http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/%7Ephensel/data.html>

International Political Data

Political Systems / Regime Type
 Political Rights and Freedom
 Political Leadership
 Congresses, Parliaments, and Legislatures
 Elections
 Public Opinion
 Miscellaneous Political Data

International Social Data

General Social Data
 Ethnic, Linguistic, and Religious Minorities
 Population and Demography

United States Data

U.S. Economic Data
 U.S. Social Data
 U.S. Political Data
 U.S. Public Opinion Data

BROAD RANGE OF DATA, also societal data!

LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays**PAUL HENSEL'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DATA PAGE**

<http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/%7Ephensel/data.html>

Example: *POLITY IV Data* (the official site for distribution of Ted Gurr, et al.'s Polity data sets, currently updated through 1999 under the name Polity IV; these are the most commonly used source of systematic information on each country's political structures since the year 1800. The data and codebook are available in a variety of commonly used formats, but now -- as of Polity IV -- require each prospective user to register with the project before obtaining the data.)

Spatial-Temporal Domain: Entire world, **1800-1998 (!)**

Variables Included: Country, year, **democracy / autocracy** / polity indices, polity durability, executive recruitment regulation / competition / openness, executive constraints, and regulation / competitiveness of political participation, executive recruitment / executive constraints / political competition concept variables, data on regime transitions (including prior / interim / post polity codes and state failure)



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**ANY QUESTIONS ON USING SOURCES? OR
DATA ISSUES? ANYTHING ELSE?**



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ESSAY WRITING

About the essay

- **Full referencing** required. See <http://www.library.appstate.edu/reference/researchguides.html> for overall details.
- **More specifically:** <http://www.library.appstate.edu/reference/classguides/his1102/history1102scrapbook.html>
- **Specifics on citing sources:** <http://www.library.appstate.edu/reference/citations/index.html>
(NOTE! Read this if nothing else!)
-



LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays**WHY AND HOW STUDY WORLD CIVILIZATIONS?****ESSAY WRITING****About the essay (continued)**

- ☐ The so-called **IMRD** (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion) –method preferred.

- ☐ **General instructions on essay-writing:**

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html>;

<http://webster.commnet.edu/mla/index.shtml>

- ☐ **Not necessary to utilize sources outside the class requirements, but will reflect positively on your grade:**

- Use the resources offered by the Library;
- Use e.g. internet based journal archives, such as Journal Storage (<http://www.jstor.org/>)

**LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays****Some General Advice on Academic Essay-Writing**

- 1) An essay needs to have **clear argument(s)**
- 2) **Formulate** the questions **clearly**, develop your thinking, possibly forming a **hypothesis**; remember to evaluate evidence both **for** and **against** your argument(s)
- 3) **Organizing** the contents of the essay extremely important (also **structure**: IMRD, titles, references, bibliography etc.)
- 4)

LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays**SPECIFIC ISSUES ON ESSAY WRITING****1. Referencing, bibliography!****Examples:**

Reference (either in text or in a foot/endnote):

Howard, Michael, *Studies in War and Peace* (New York 1972), 9—11.; Anderson, M. S., *War and Society of the Old Regime, 1618—1789* (Avon 1988), 8;

Bibliography (list of references and other sources, in alphabetical order):

BIBLIOGRAPHY:**Published Primary Sources:**

American Foreign Policy. A Documentary Survey 1776—1960. Ed. by Dorothy Burne Goebel (New York 1961).

References:

Agøy, Nils Ivar, 'When Officers Need Internal Enemies: Aspects of Civil-Military Relations in Scandinavia Between the World Wars'. *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 33, No. 4 (1996).

Anderson, M. S., *War and Society of the Old Regime, 1618—1789* (Avon 1988).

LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays**EXAMPLES:**

Berry, William D. & David Lowery (1987), 'Explaining the Size of the Public Sector: Responsive and Excessive Government Interpretations'. *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 49, Issue 2.

-citation in text (specific):

Consequently, we must reconceptualize the size of government at some mid-range level. There are numerous typologies that could serve as the basis for disaggregation (Ott and Ott, 1989; Borcharding, 1977a; Teigen, 1980). But the key is that disaggregation should be sufficiently extensive

-footnote, below text (makes an additional point) :

³ In other research (not reported here because of space limitations) we develop explanations for the remaining component of government expenditure, defense purchases (Berry and Lowery, 1988).

-bibliography:

REFERENCES

- Abizadeh, Sohrab, and John Gray. 1985. Wagner's Law: A Pooled Time-Series, Cross-section Comparison. *National Tax Journal*, 36: 209-18.
- Althaus, Robert P. 1971. Multicollinearity in Non-Additive Regression Models. In Hubert M. Blalock, Jr., ed., *Causal Models in the Social Sciences*. Chicago: Aldine.
- Baumol, William J. 1967. Macroeconomics of Unbalanced Growth: The Anatomy of the Urban Crisis. *American Economic Review*, 57: 415-28.
- Beck, Morris. 1976. The Expanding Public Sector: Some Contrary Evidence. *National Tax Journal*, 29: 15-21.

LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays

McGuire, Martin C. & Mancur Olson, Jr. (1996), 'The Economics of Autocracy and Majority Rule: The Invisible Hand and the Use of Force'. *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. 34, Issue 1.
-citation in text (specific):

In this paper we formalize and extend some of our earlier analyses (Olson 1991, 1993; McGuire 1990; and McGuire and Olson 1992). We have drawn inspiration
-footnote (explains further):

² If an autocrat, in providing public goods, were motivated by a desire to increase social efficiency or the welfare of his subjects, rather than to serve his own interests, then our conclusion that he would ignore some of the social benefits of provision of G need not apply (see Barro 1990).

-bibliography:

REFERENCES

- BANFIELD, EDWARD C. *The moral basis of a backward society*. Glencoe, IL: The Free Press, 1958.
- BARRO, ROBERT. "Government Spending in a Simple Model of Endogenous Growth." *J. Polit. Econ.*, Oct. 1990, 98(5, Part 2), pp. S103-25.
- BARZEL, YORAM. "Property Rights and the Evolution of the State." Manuscript, Dec., 1993.
- BECKER, GARY S. AND LANDES, WILLIAM M., eds. *Essays in the economics of crime and punishment*. NBER, New York: Columbia U. Press, 1974.

LECTURE 3: Using Sources and Other Materials; Writing Essays

2. Use of sources:

a) quote them accurately; b) use sources critically; c) use sources, pro and con your argument, to make your points. **Also, bibliography needed at the end of the essay.**

USE AT LEAST TWO BOOKS OR ARTICLES FROM THE COURSE READING LIST!

- In addition, avoid "double citing" = do not use e.g. "Becker 1983 as quoted in Crafts 1986", always use the original source! Do not mention authors (unless generally known figures, e.g. Adam Smith, not making a specific reference) in the text without proper quotation
- Do not copy text from the original sources, rather than interpret it
- Try to compare points made by different authors, find consistencies and inconsistencies in the viewpoints

IF THE INSTRUCTIONS SAY FULL REFERENCING, DO NOT EXPECT TO PASS WITHOUT FULL REFERENCING!

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3. Empirical aspects vis-a-vis theory: both are important, make connections and arguments based on the theoretical framework's applicability to empirical realities!
-example (McGuire-Olson 1996):

lock 1974). Though we do not use the transactions costs of voluntary exchanges in our models of the origin of government and politics as Douglass North (1981, 1990), Edgar Kiser and Yoram Barzel (1991), and Barzel (1993) have done, our models nonetheless complement theirs. The analysis here emerges

4. Structure: see before (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion.). Also pay attention to the format (titles, paragraphs, their role vis-à-vis the text).

5. Style: avoid expressions such as 'I think', 'I feel' etc. They are not applicable to academic writing. Be clear.

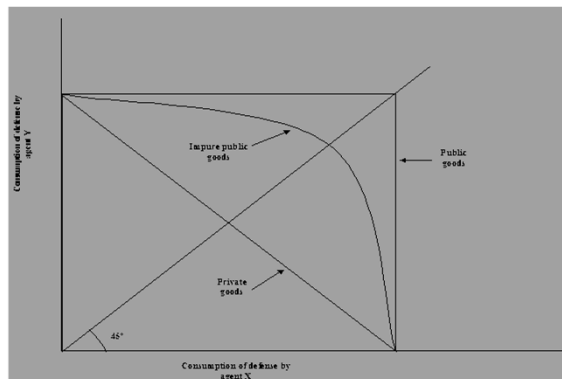
Also, avoid abbreviations, such as "don't" (instead, write it out "do not") and C19th (instead: 19th century)

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6. Use graphs and other illustrative tools to argue your points (style, technical proficiency, numbering the graphs, titles):

EXAMPLE 1 (from Eloranta 2002):

Figure 5. Consumption of Defense as a Public Good, by Two Agents



Source: adapted from Atkinson-Stiglitz 1980, 485.

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EXAMPLE 2: (from McGuire-Olson 1996)

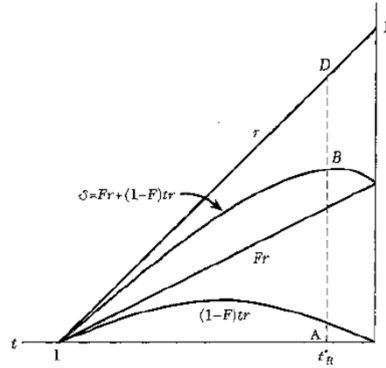


Figure 4.



Learning to write good essays is focal for your academic careers, so put effort into it!

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QUESTIONS:

- 1)
- 2)

IN WRITING, turn it at the end of the class.



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**ANY QUESTIONS ON TODAY'S LECTURE?
ANYTHING ELSE?**

