

HIST 326 – 4.2 Reflective Essay

The following Reflective Essay is assigned during the final week of the class. It is ungraded but completion awards 5% of the final grade. Ideally students will be able to reflect upon different ways that the class has informed their ability to consider non-US cultural view points. This assignment pairs well with an assignment designed to fulfill Goal 3 (H) in which students must research a problem affecting contemporary indigenous groups in the Americas. I hope that students are able to articulate how that assignment has shaped their ability to consider non-US cultural viewpoints.

In a one-page essay (300-400 words) reflect on the following questions:

How has an examination of Native American cultures and societies affected how you understand the relationship of the U.S. to another region of the world? How has your own world view, or cultural perspective, changed as a result of this course?

Although this is a reflective essay, please approach this as a piece of academic writing. Avoid sounding casual, avoid idioms, avoid contractions.

This assignment will not be graded for its content. We want your genuine reflections on the course and your responses to the material. Full credit will be given to sincere and thoughtful reflections regardless of content.

Rubric

	Exceeds	Expected	Underperform
Cultural self-reflectiveness within context of diverse cultures	Posits insights into cultural biases and articulates a shift in own perspective towards other cultures.	Identifies own cultural perspective and biases; recognizes new perspectives outside the student's own culture.	Shows minimal awareness of own cultural perspective; cannot not clearly distinguish perspectives outside the student's own culture.
Comparative knowledge of cultural world-views / frameworks	Demonstrates sophisticated and complex understanding of history, values, politics, and/or beliefs of other cultures.	Demonstrates adequate understanding of history, values, politics, and/or beliefs of other cultures.	Cannot clearly articulate understanding of history, values, politics, and/or beliefs of other cultures.