

HY101-History of Western Civilization I
Fall 2009
Writing Assignment 1

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, "The Burdens of Empire"
-found in *Meridians*, 38-43

Please write a two page analysis of the above-listed reading. The assignment should be completed as follows:

-The assignment should consist of three sections: summary, context, and analysis. Each section should be labeled.

-The summary section should be relatively short, and should include a summary of the work assigned.

-The context section should include information about the author, his time and place, and any pertinent events taking place that might have had an impact on why and/or how he wrote the work.

-The analysis should be the longest section, as it is the most important. In this section, you should explain certain things about the work. Why did the author write it? Why did he write it in the way that he wrote it? What might have been his bias? How does this present itself in the text? Most importantly, you must explain why the piece was important for its own civilization, as well as for modern Western civilization. **Your arguments must be supported by direct quotes from the primary source itself.**

-The assignment must include proper citation of sources.

-As you are limited to using your Spielvogel and *Meridians* texts, this should be fairly straightforward, but I will attach examples of footnotes for both texts to make citing them correctly relatively foolproof. No bibliography or works cited page is permitted.

-You must cite a source any time you use information from that source, unless it is common knowledge. The fact that Thucydides was an Athenian general who lived during the fifth century BC is not considered common knowledge, and, thus, should be cited. The fact that Athens is a city in Greece is common knowledge and need not be cited.

-The assignment must include your name, section number, and Writing Assignment 1 in the upper right-hand corner of the first page. Do not repeat this information on subsequent pages. Do not use a title page or any type of report cover. Simply staple the pages together in the upper left-hand corner of the page.

-Each page should be numbered.

-The assignment must be typed, double-spaced, and must have one-inch margins on all sides. You should use a twelve point font that is of a reasonable form, something akin to Times New Roman would be great.

-The assignment is due during class time on the date specified in your course syllabus.