

**Annotated Bibliography Assignments, HST 300  
Fall 2009, Professor Lavender**

*I. Identifying a Topic*

For this course, you will be submitting an annotated bibliography. This will be based on a topic of your choice, with the approval of your professor.

Note that you must identify a topic that is neither too large (because too many historical studies of the topic exist) or too small (because so few exist). You will need to be able to find at least twenty distinct historical analyses of your topic for it to be viable.

Also, please note that you must have approval of your topic before you start your work. If you submit a bibliography on a topic that has not been approved, I will not accept it. Therefore, you will submit on 11/10 a proposal listing your topic, the question to be discussed and answered and a draft bibliography on the topic. You should have identified at least fifteen sources at this stage. This will also include your email address, so I can let you know if your topic has been approved as soon as possible. You may also submit this *early*, in order to leave yourself more time to work on the final project. This can most efficiently be done by via email sent to lavender@mail.csi.cuny.edu.

*II. The Annotated Bibliography:*

Once you identify your topic, then you will do a literature search to identify materials you may use to research your topic. This will mean that you will search in *at least* the following databases accessible via the CSI Library's website (srms.library.csi.cuny.edu/resources/databases.jsp):

WorldCat  
Academic Search Premier/Academic Search Complete  
America History and Life / Historical Abstracts  
JSTOR  
Project Muse

From what you find, you will create an annotated bibliography (see the example on the course website). In your annotations for each book or article, you will explain what the thesis of the author is (what they argue concerning the question you are researching), as well as a statement of what sorts of sources they use to reach this conclusion. This annotated bibliography will be due December 1.

To identify thesis and argument, you do not necessarily need to read the whole book or article, although ideally you should make every effort to get the resources, either through the library (CSI or NYPL) or through sites like Googlebooks, Questia.com, or other online access points. Generally, you may limit your search in the article databases listed above to "full-text" options. In addition, you can read the reviews of the books in scholarly journals and abstracts of articles in databases like America History and Life. The resources allow scholars to identify and quickly assimilate the debates in their field, and you should learn to use them!