

JULIAN OF NORWICH ESSAY

Answer the question below in a three-page essay. **The essay must be double-spaced, with 12-point font Times New Roman type and one-inch margins.** Construct a **thesis** in your introduction. Defend your thesis with specific evidence **from the three assigned readings**. Please DO NOT consult any other outside sources—especially the Internet. You may, of course, use your Bentley text and lecture notes for historical context. Please **cite appropriately** when you do so (i.e., Bentley, p. 423 or Julian, p. 7 or al-Ghazali, p. 57 or Siddhartha p. 84).

Examine and discuss the fundamental spiritual beliefs of the mystics Julian of Norwich, al-Ghazali and Siddhartha. Is there a common message in all religions?

Essays will be graded according to the following general standards:

A: This is a clearly written, well-organized essay with no grammatical errors or major stylistic problems. The introduction includes insightful historical context and the thesis is original and interesting. The body of the essay supports the thesis with well-integrated and well-chosen evidence drawn from text, lecture, films, and handouts. The essay demonstrates that the student has a solid command of the course material.

B: This essay adequately addresses the assigned question or topic. The thesis may be weak or uninspired. Evidence is adequate yet lacks a complex analysis. There are a few grammatical, stylistic, and/or organization problems.

C: This essay has a weak thesis and disregards the most important and obvious evidence. It may also suffer from a combination of problems including insufficient depth of analysis, numerous grammatical errors, and poor presentation and organization. A C paper often incorporates a conversational or casual tone that is inappropriate in formal writing.

D: This essay lacks a thesis and, as a result, the evidence presented does not support an argument. The essay may also demonstrate that the student has some awareness of the material, but cannot incorporate it into an argument that addresses the assigned question or topic. The essay might also lack sufficient writing skills required in a freshman college course.

F: This paper was probably written at the last minute and contains no thesis, little understanding and use of the material, insufficient or inappropriate evidence, and serious writing problems.

This assignment was originally presented as part of the article “Structuring the World History Survey: A First Timer Confesses” by Mary Jane Maxwell in *World History Connected*, volume 2, issue 2. The online journal *World History Connected* (<http://worldhistoryconnected.press.uiuc.edu>) is partially supported by the College Board and published in association with the History Cooperative (www.historycooperative.org). Copyright © 2004 Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois. Reproduced here with permission.