

HIS 118 Final Project Guidelines and Rubric

Overview

Throughout this course, you have examined the dramatic trends and changes that have characterized world civilizations from 1500 to the present. Some of the important themes covered are the origins and proliferation of global interconnections, the emergence of nationalism and development of nation-states, the birth of democracy, the spread of new ideas and new technologies, the outbreak of world wars, and the maintenance of democratic peace. Now you will focus on these critically important aspects: the emergence of nationalism, the development of nation-states, and the broader historical significance of nation-states.

The idea of a nation and the existence of nation-states to which people feel and display nationalism are defining characteristics of our modern era. They have had dramatic ramifications for the political, economic, and social systems around the world in recent centuries. It may be surprising to learn that nation-states and nationalism are relatively young phenomena, whose emergence is traced and analyzed throughout this course.

You will explore and analyze the development of two or more nation-states between 1500 and the present. Nationalism and nation-states emerged during this period due to a complex array of factors. In order to best capture this, you will analyze social, philosophical, economic, political, and external forces that impacted the nation-states you chose for your essay. By undertaking this analysis, you will bring together the most important topics discussed in this course and develop a clearer understanding of the ways the past continues to influence the present and future.

For the final project, you will explore the development of nation-states through a careful analysis of social, philosophical, economic, political, and external forces. You will write a thesis-driven essay to complete the following statement: "Nation-states developed in the West in the period from 1500 to the present because..." You will research the development of two of the given nation-states during the period from 1500 to the present and use primary and secondary sources to support your claims.

The project is divided into **two milestones**, which will be submitted at various points throughout the course to scaffold learning and ensure quality final submissions. These milestones will be submitted in **Modules Three and Five**. The final product will be submitted in **Module Seven**.

In this assignment, you will demonstrate your mastery of the following course outcomes:

- Articulate the origins and development of nation-states that have emerged from 1500 to the present in terms of global connectedness
- Determine fundamental social, economic, and political forces that impacted nation-states from 1500 to the present and how they relate to an increasingly connected world through globalization
- Incorporate relevant evidence from primary and secondary sources to logically support historical claims about the development of nations from 1500 to the present
- Draw basic conclusions about the local and global impact of nations from 1500 to the present by interpreting historical evidence

Prompt

For the final project, you will write a thesis-driven essay to complete the following statement: “Nation-states developed in the West in the period from 1500 to the present because...” Choose **two** nation-states from the following list that you will analyze as examples to complete the statement: France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain. In order to support your thesis and fully complete the statement, you must provide a detailed analysis of social, philosophical, economic, political, and external forces that relate to your topic. You will use primary and secondary sources to support your claims.

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed:

I. Introduction

In this section, you will provide a general overview of what this essay will accomplish. This section includes your thesis statement, which clearly completes the following statement: “Nation-states developed in the West in the period from 1500 to the present because...” and introduces the two nation-states you will use as examples to prove your thesis. This section sets up the argument that you will try to prove in the research and analysis section of the essay through the use of research-based examples, specific details, and careful analysis.

- A. Briefly introduce the **argument** that you will present in your essay, including your thesis statement, which clearly completes the statement posed. (A thesis statement may be one or more sentences in length in order to fully provide your completion of the statement.)

II. Research and Analysis

In this section, you will use both primary and secondary sources to research and analyze the reasons nation-states developed in the West during the period from 1500 to the present, using the two or more nation-states you chose as examples to illustrate your points. This is the body of your essay, and it should be made up of sections that analyze each of the forces listed below. Each section should relate directly back to your thesis statement.

A. Social and Philosophical Forces

- i. Explain how **social forces** (e.g., new feelings of nationalism, changes in the social structure and class systems, the changing role of religion in daily life) within Europe or elsewhere contributed to the emergence of nation-states.
- ii. How did specific Enlightenment **philosophies** change the way people thought about the role of government and the concept of a nation? What impact did this have on the development of nation-states in this era?
- iii. Incorporate evidence from both primary and secondary sources to **support** your **claims** about the ways that social and philosophical forces contributed to the rise of nation-states.

B. Economic Forces

- i. Explain the ways **economic forces**, specifically changes due to increasing global connectedness, contributed to the emergence of nation-states over time.
- ii. Were specific **goods and commodities** important to the emerging nation-states? If so, how did they impact global economies and the national priorities of the nation-states? If not, explain why specific goods and commodities did not play a significant role in the development of nation-states and provide examples to support your argument.

- iii. Incorporate evidence from both primary and secondary sources to **support** your **claims** about the ways economic forces contributed to the rise of nation-states.

C. Political Forces

- i. Explain specific **events** (e.g., war or revolution) that precipitated the formation of nation-states, how this happened, and why.
- ii. Analyze whether the political “state precedes the nation” **approach** applies to your examples.
- iii. Incorporate evidence from both primary and secondary sources to **support** your **claims** about the ways political forces contributed to the rise of nation-states.

D. Forces of Globalization

- i. Explain the **events or trends** (e.g., inspiration from other emerging nation-states, opposition to imperial or communist rule) **in neighboring areas** or other world regions that may have impacted the development of specific nation-states.
- ii. How may the development of some nation-states in turn have impacted **neighboring areas**? For example, you might discuss the ways the development of one nation-state either facilitated or impeded the development of neighboring nation-states.
- iii. Incorporate evidence from both primary and secondary sources to **support** your **claims** about the ways increasing globalization and enhanced global connections contributed to the rise of nation-states.

E. Historical Perspective

- i. Summarize the role played by **increasing global connections** in the development of nation-states.
- ii. Briefly outline (in one to two paragraphs) some of the ways the development of nation-states set the **stage for modern events** and characteristics (e.g., the expansion of democracy, the outbreak of world wars, the growth of international terrorism).

III. Conclusion

In this section, you will restate your thesis statement and reference the broader significance of your topic.

- A. Provide a **conclusion** for your essay in which you restate your thesis statement and summarize the overall historical significance of the rise of nation-states as a global form of identity and governance during the period from 1500 to the present.

Milestones

Milestone One: Introduction and Outline

In **Module Three**, you will build upon your foundation from Module One to craft the introduction of your final project and a topic outline. In addition, you will need to support your ideas with at least three reputable resources; these resources need to be presented in a bibliography using Turabian/Chicago format. Each item will help you in the development of your rough draft, which is due in Module Five. **This milestone will be graded with the Milestone One Rubric.**

Milestone Two: Rough Draft

In **Module Five**, you will submit a rough draft of your final project. In Module Three, you crafted the introduction and outline for the final project. For this assignment, you will expand on your outline and complete a rough draft. This draft must contain all of the required elements from the final project and should

be about the same required length as your final project. Submitting a rough draft at this stage allows you to receive detailed feedback and instructions from your instructor before the final submission. Make sure to incorporate your instructor’s Milestone One feedback when writing your rough draft. If you have any questions about your project, make sure to include them with your submission or reach out to your instructor. **This milestone will be graded with the Milestone Two Rubric.**

Final Submission: Thesis-Driven Essay

In **Module Seven**, you will submit your final project. It should be a complete, polished artifact containing **all** of the critical elements of the final product. It should reflect the incorporation of feedback gained throughout the course. **This submission will be graded with the Final Project Rubric.**

Final Project Rubric

Guidelines for Submission: Your essay should be 6 to 8 pages in length (not including the cover page and reference page) with 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spacing, and Turabian/Chicago style format. If you choose to use endnotes instead of footnotes, those do not count toward your page total. Your final submission should include at least six reputable sources cited in Turabian/Chicago format.

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Needs Improvement (55%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Introduction: Argument	Meets “Proficient” criteria and thesis statement exceptionally articulates the argument and main points of the essay	Briefly introduces the argument that will be presented in the essay, including a thesis statement that clearly completes the statement provided	Introduces the argument that will be presented in the essay, including a thesis statement, but introduction is too wordy or thesis statement does not clearly complete the statement provided	Does not introduce the argument that will be presented in the essay or provide a thesis statement	4.8
Social and Political Forces: Social Forces	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the effect of social forces on the emergence of nation-states	Explains how social forces within Europe or elsewhere contributed to the emergence of nation-states	Explains how social forces within Europe or elsewhere contributed to the emergence of nation-states but explanation is illogical or contains inaccuracies	Does not explain how social forces within Europe or elsewhere contributed to the emergence of nation-states	4.8
Social and Political Forces: Philosophies	Meets “Proficient” criteria and provides unique insight regarding the way specific Enlightenment philosophies changed the way people thought about the role of government and the concept of a nation	Analyzes how specific Enlightenment philosophies changed the way people thought about the role of government and the concept of a nation, including the impact this had on the development of nation-states	Analyzes how specific Enlightenment philosophies changed the way people thought about the role of government and the concept of a nation but analysis is cursory, contains inaccuracies, or does not address the impact this had on the development of nation-states	Does not analyze how specific Enlightenment philosophies changed the way people thought about the role of government and the concept of a nation	4.8

Social and Political Forces: Support Claims	Meets “Proficient” criteria and cites multiple relevant examples that are exceptionally supportive of claims about the ways social and philosophical forces contributed to the rise of nation-states	Incorporates logical and relevant evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support claims about the ways social and philosophical forces contributed to the rise of nation-states	Incorporates evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support claims about the ways social and philosophical forces contributed to the rise of nation-states but evidence used is not all logical or relevant	Does not incorporate evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support claims about the ways social and philosophical forces contributed to the rise of nation-states	5.9
Economic Forces: Economic Forces	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the effect of economic forces on the emergence of nation-states	Explains the ways economic forces contributed to the emergence of nation-states over time, including changes due to increasing global connectedness	Explains the ways economic forces contributed to the emergence of nation-states over time but explanation is illogical, contains inaccuracies, or does not address changes due to increasing global connectedness	Does not explain the ways economic forces contributed to the emergence of nation-states over time	5.9
Economic Forces: Goods and Commodities	Meets “Proficient” criteria and provides keen insight into the impact, or lack of, goods and commodities on the emerging nation-states	Determines if goods and commodities were important to the emerging nation-states and provides rationale	Determines if goods and commodities were important to the emerging nation-states but response lacks detail or rationale is not aligned with determination	Does not determine if goods and commodities were important to the emerging nation-states	4.8
Economic Forces: Support Claims	Meets “Proficient” criteria and cites multiple relevant examples that are exceptionally supportive of claims about the ways economic forces contributed to the rise of nation-states	Incorporates logical and relevant evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support claims about the ways economic forces contributed to the rise of nation-states	Incorporates evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support claims about the ways economic forces contributed to the rise of nation-states but evidence used is not all logical or relevant	Does not incorporate evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support claims about the ways economic forces contributed to the rise of nation-states	5.9
Political Forces: Events	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates sophisticated understanding of how and why nation-states developed	Explains specific events that precipitated the formation of nation-states, how this happened, and why	Explains specific events that precipitated the formation of nation-states, how this happened, and why, but explanation is illogical or contains inaccuracies	Does not explain specific events that precipitated the formation of nation-states, how this happened, or why	5.9
Political Forces: Approach	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates sophisticated understanding of the application of this political approach	Analyzes whether this political approach applies to the examples used	Analyzes whether this political approach applies to the examples used but analysis is cursory or contains inaccuracies	Does not analyze whether this political approach applies to the examples used	4.8

Political Forces: Support Claims	Meets “Proficient” criteria and cites multiple relevant examples that are exceptionally supportive of claims about the ways political forces contributed to the rise of nation-states	Incorporates logical and relevant evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support claims about the ways political forces contributed to the rise of nation-states	Incorporates evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support claims about the ways political forces contributed to the rise of nation-states but evidence used is not all logical or relevant	Does not incorporate evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support claims about the ways political forces contributed to the rise of nation-states	5.9
Forces of Globalization: Events or Trends in Neighboring Areas	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates sophisticated understanding of the impact of neighboring areas or other world regions on the development of specific nation-states	Explains the events or trends in neighboring areas or other world regions that may have impacted the development of specific nation-states	Explains the events or trends in neighboring areas or other world regions that may have impacted the development of specific nation-states but explanation is illogical or contains inaccuracies	Does not explain the events or trends in neighboring areas or other world regions that may have impacted the development of specific nation-states	5.9
Forces of Globalization: Neighboring Areas	Meets “Proficient” criteria and provides unique insight regarding how the development of some nation-states may have in turn impacted neighboring areas	Determines how the development of some nation-states may have in turn impacted neighboring areas	Determines how the development of some nation-states may have in turn impacted neighboring areas but determination contains inaccuracies	Does not determine how the development of some nation-states may have in turn impacted neighboring areas	7.9
Forces of Globalization: Support Claims	Meets “Proficient” criteria and cites multiple relevant examples that are exceptionally supportive of claims about the ways increasing globalization contributed to the rise of nation-states	Incorporates logical and relevant evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support claims about the ways increasing globalization contributed to the rise of nation-states	Incorporates evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support claims about the ways increasing globalization contributed to the rise of nation-states but evidence used is not all logical or relevant	Does not incorporate evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support claims about the ways increasing globalization contributed to the rise of nation-states	5.9
Historical Perspective: Increasing Global Connections	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates sophisticated understanding of the role played by increasing global connections in the development of nation-states	Summarizes the role played by increasing global connections in the development of nation-states	Summarizes the role played by increasing global connections in the development of nation-states but summary is unclear, contains inaccuracies, or is missing key elements	Does not summarize the role played by increasing global connections in the development of nation-states	5.9
Historical Perspective: Stage for Modern Events	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates sophisticated understanding of the broader significance of the development of nation-states	Outlines some of the ways the development of nation-states set the stage for modern events and characteristics	Outlines some of the ways the development of nation-states set the stage for modern events and characteristics but outline is too wordy or contains inaccuracies	Does not outline some of the ways the development of nation-states set the stage for modern events and characteristics	7.9

Southern New Hampshire University

Conclusion	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates nuanced understanding of the overall historical significance of the rise of nation-states as a global form of identity and governance	Provides a conclusion that restates the thesis statement and summarizes the overall historical significance of the rise of nation-states as a global form of identity and governance	Provides a conclusion that restates the thesis statement and summarizes the overall historical significance of the rise of nation-states as a global form of identity and governance but conclusion is illogical or contains inaccuracies	Does not provide a conclusion that restates the thesis statement or summarizes the overall historical significance of the rise of nation-states as a global form of identity and governance	7.9
Articulation of Response	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	5.1
Total					100%