

The take-home component for Exam 1

- Each of your exams will have a take-home essay component. This essay will be worth 50 of the 150 points on the exam.
- The essay is due on or before 9/23 by 11 am in the Turn-it-in dropbox on our course Moodle page (under Exams). **Do not** go directly to the Turnitin.com site; you submit your essay via Moodle.
- I am giving you the question now so that you can think about it as you take notes on the lectures and as you read the assignments.
- You should spend no more than 30 minutes typing up and submitting your essay—**assuming that you have already prepared a detailed outline.**
- Your essay should consist of 4-6 **detailed** paragraphs. Every paragraph should present a major point in support of your thesis. Every paragraph should contain concrete examples that support your general statement. I **highly recommend** that you review the handout “Argument and Thesis: The Essentials.”
- You do not have to write an elaborate introduction, nor do you need the sort of interesting “hook” that I would expect on a formal paper. Just state your thesis and move into your argument. You do not need a conclusion, as you would for a formal paper.
- **Your essay must draw directly on your class notes.** You must show that you understand the major themes of this course—*this course, this section, this semester*, not someone else’s course, and not a previous version of this course.
 - If you bring in information from outside sources (such as Wikipedia), **you will receive a grade of 0.**
 - If you simply copy sections from your textbook, **you will receive a grade of 0.**
 - If you simply paraphrase sections from your textbook, **you will receive a grade of 0.**
 - If your performance on the take-home essay differs substantially from your performance on the in-class section of the exam, I will require you to come in for an interview.
- I highly recommend that you re-read **the introductory essay on “What is the West?”**

- Do grammar, punctuation, and spelling count? Yes; you are expected to follow the standards of **ESWE** (Edited Standard Written English). Don't know what that is? Check out the handout on our course Moodle page.

The question

The major theme of our course is the transformation of the West through encounters, both external (between Western and non-Western peoples, products, values, and ideas) and internal ((between different social groups or ideologies within the West, or involving a group or an idea and a new place or product—a largely peasant society encountering urbanization, for example).* *As you consider the transformation of the West between 1550 and 1815, which of these two basic categories of encounters—external or internal—was the more important? How and why? (Do note: to explain how and why, you'll also have to think about what, when, where, and who.)*

* If you are still confused by what we mean by “external and internal encounters,” go to the Detailed Table of Contents for *The West* on Revel. Click on “About This Course.” The essay there, particularly the sections titled “External Encounters,” “Internal Encounters,” and “Ideological Encounters,” will help you.

Remember:

- that there is no single “right answer.” There are very specific right questions, however! (If you don't remember the “right questions,” review “What is the West?”)
- to base your essay on the course lectures and to be specific.
- to structure your thesis carefully and to be sure that you have an argument—in the way that historians define “argument”! (Review “Thesis and Argument—The Essentials” if you are unsure.)