

The take-home component for Exam 2

- 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 **10/23 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. Be sure to:
 - format your response as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or in .rtf.
 - double-space your submission.
- 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.**
 - You may use your readings; just do not rely entirely on them.
 - 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

Write a “biography” of modern nationalism in the West, up to 1900. Stop! Think! A biography usually details an individual’s life and times: it takes us from birth, through early years, into maturity; it looks at important changes; it explores issues of impact and influence. **Here, of course, there is no individual person, but rather an individual ideology.** In other words, we are playing with the concept of “biography” to explore the history of nationalism: where and when was nationalism born? who embraced and promoted it in its early years and why? how did it change as the 19th century moved on?

NOTE: Remember to be specific; i.e. What events and developments in the 19th C are inexplicable without discussing nationalism? Those events should probably come up in this essay.

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.)