**GEH1077**

**Metropolis: The City in World History**

**Semester 2, AY2021-22**

**CA2 20%**

Documentary Review Essay

600 words

Due: Week 8, Monday, 7 March 2022, 12 pm

Please upload your essay onto our LumiNUS submission folder.

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**Write a short critique of how the city is depicted in ONE of the following documentaries:**

1. The City (1939)

This documentary is mounted on Week 1 of our Learning Flow.

A reading on this film and Lewis Mumford is in the readings folder.

1. Ancient Invisible Cities: Istanbul (2018)

This documentary is mounted on Week 5 of our Learning Flow.

Portions of a travelogue through old Constantinople, mounted on the same week, complements this documentary.

1. “The Victorians” Episode 1 (2009)

This documentary is mounted on Week 6 of our Learning Flow.

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**In your review answer these questions:**

What are the key ideas conveyed in this documentary? Are the ideas conveyed effectively? How? And why or why not? What questions or reflections on the history of cities did you have after watching this documentary?

A general guide to writing a critique is on the following page. You should not be just summarizing the documentary.

**Please use the following specifications for your essay:**

Font: 12pt

Spacing: 2

Remember to indicate your name, and student number in your essay.

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**Further Information:**

IF you are using secondary materials (books, articles, websites) then you should use standard scholarly conventions of using footnotes and providing a bibliography. These extra materials will not be counted against your word allotment. For examples on how to write an essay (and footnoting conventions) please see the History Department’s guide “On Writing Essays” (available via the Department’s webpage). Please use the Chicago Style of Citation. For instructions on how to use such a style of documentation, please refer to: <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html>

**Sources:**

Wikipedia and personal blogs are not a good sources for research at the tertiary level.

**Plagiarism:**

NUS takes a very strong view regarding academic dishonesty. All papers will be submitted to Turnitin. Plagiarism cases will be penalised and/or reported.

**Late Submission:**

Late submissions without a valid explanation and supporting documentation will be subjected to a penalty of half a grade per day the paper is late.

**On Writing a Critique**

Adapted from a guide produced by the Queensland University of Technology. For further details, please refer to: <https://www.citewrite.qut.edu.au/write/critique.html>

A critique should not be confused with just ‘being critical’. Instead it is a more thoughtful engagement with the work (in this case a documentary) and a weighing of the strengths and weaknesses in addition to engaging with the ideas.

Writing a critique of a work helps us to develop:

1. A knowledge of the work’s subject area or related works.
2. An understanding of the work’s purpose, intended audience, development of argument, structure of evidence or creative style.
3. A recognition of the strengths and weaknesses of the work.

Reminders, when you write your critique:

1. Study the work under discussion and make notes on key parts of the work. (In this case, take notes while you watch the documentary).
2. Develop an understanding of the main argument or purpose being expressed in the work.
3. Consider how the work relates to a broader issue or context.
4. Consider and take note of any questions the work raises for you.

Please keep the above elements in mind, when you write your documentary response/ review essay.