**Assessment Guidelines for Term Paper**

**Term Paper Assignment (as posted on Canvas)**

Form: Your term paper should be 7 pages (+/- 10%), 1.5 spacing Times New Roman 12 point font

Citation style: Either Chicago Style or MLA -- footnote style (not in text), with a Works Cited section at the end.

Assignment:

**Choose one or more primary sources to analyze in terms of how it demonstrates or conflicts with the ideology of American Exceptionalism.**

Note: A primary source is something that was created by people at the time of an event or in remembering an event.  Possible types of primary sources can include: films, speeches, ads, songs, broadcasts, government documents, newspapers, magazines. The restriction here is that you must be able to provide a working link or an attachment. Such an attachment would be in addition to the page limit.

Also, note that language matters. You should always thoroughly proofread your text any time you give it to someone else.

You will become a part of a group that will critique each other and discuss your drafts throughout the semester.

Deadline for turning in via inspera is May 16th. If you have any trouble with the technology, contact the exam advisor (eksamenskonsulent).

Internal deadlines will be posted as oppgaver in canvas.

**Feedback points:**

1. Primary source choices: to be approved early March
2. Drafts to be discussed within small study groups.
3. 2 written evaluations by other students
4. Feedback on draft by me.

**Absolute Essentials to determine if the paper passes or fails:**

1. The paper must analyze one or more primary sources (historian’s definition of source type, explained to students in class and in the Assignment text).
2. The paper must focus on American Exceptionalism.
3. Proper academic ethics must be used (No plagiarism. Use citations)
4. The paper must be written in English. The level must demonstrate reasonable competence in communicating in English at a level appropriate for university level analysis.

All of these are required for any passing grade. If any one of these base requirements is missing, the grade will be **F**.

How well each of these is done will determine the grade.

**Passing Grades:**

**Excellent (A):**

1. The choice of source(s) is excellent and fits well with the analysis of the paper.
2. The analysis of American Exceptionalism is excellent and uses the primary sources as the center of analysis.
3. “Facts” are accurate.
4. Secondary sources include both appropriate *pensum* items, with one or two articles found independently. The choice of secondary sources is excellent and appropriate for the analysis of the chosen primary sources. They are well integrated into the analysis.
5. The required citation style is competent.
6. Use of academic English is excellent, in terms of grammar and structure. Sentence structure is excellent.
7. The paper is organized well, with excellent paragraphing and structure.
8. Proofreading is thorough, with very few mistakes.

**General:** So far, these are the descriptions for the top and the bottom. All other grades indicate the level of variation from these two norms.

**Language assessment** covers general structure and quality, which affects the quality of analysis and is embedded into the grade for the analysis. It also includes the purely technical, in which the analysis is clear, although it is annoying to read. More than a few of these purely technical errors per page will generally lead to a penalty of one grade level. Note especially: subject/verb agreement, plurals, punctuation and possessives. Also be careful not to use Norwegian word order. The general rule in Norway is that you may choose either American or British English, but you must be consistent.

**Hint:** When we switch languages on our computers and work both at UiO and home, Word can lose track of the default. So it is best to drag your mouse over the entire text and declare the language again as either American or British English. The grammar and spell checker will then find most of the problems. Right click over an error to see what the problem is.

**Very Good (B):**

The main technical difference between an A and B would be the use of secondary sources beyond *pensum*. Additionally, organization and quality of analysis might be very good, but not quite meet the definition of excellence. Use of in-text citations, rather than the required form would lead to a B as the best grade possible.

**Ordinary (C):**

Analysis is acceptable, but rather ordinary and mediocre. The balance between primary source analysis and reporting of secondary sources leans too heavily on secondary sources. Language and structure are vague and in need of revision. There is use of tertiary sources, such as Wikipedia and textbooks, in addition to secondary *pensum* sources.

**Poor (D):**

Poor, limited analysis. Primary sources are used merely as illustrations of information from secondary and/or tertiary sources. Poor organization and structure of the paper. The links to American Exceptionalism are vague and limited.

**Very Poor (E):**

Minimal meeting of requirements. Analysis is poor. Minimal use of primary sources. The connection to American Exceptionalism is limited. Minimal understanding of secondary, *pensum* sources. Organization and structure of the paper are very poor.