Second Short Paper: Topics

Requirements

1) Write an essay in response to ONE of the topics below. Your paper must be 1250 words (around five pages) long, using 12-point font and one inch margins. Please submit your essay by Session 24.

2) Your paper must be computer-processed. Please give your paper a title, and write your name on the back of the last page. Do not write your name elsewhere on the paper. All pages should be numbered. Refer to the editing handout, posted on the stellar web site, for further editing suggestions. You may also consult with tutors at the Writing Center or with me about your paper.

3) Citations to texts read in this course should be made in parentheses in your paper. For example, if you refer to a passage on page 13 of Erasmus' *Paraclesis*, indicate this in the following manner at the end of your sentence, after the period: (*Paraclesis*, 13). Full citations to any work not assigned in class should be made in footnote or endnote form, but for this paper you do not need to consult any outside readings.

Topics

1) Read the *Encyclopédie* article "Sunday" by Joachim Faiguet de Villeneuve. Discuss in detail his proposal to reform the way the French spend their Sundays. None of the earlier authors we have read this semester would have made this argument. What has changed by the middle of the eighteenth century that makes it possible for Faiguet to commit this proposal to print?

2) Read Ken Alder's article on the history of the meter during the French Revolution, then compare the adoption of the meter in France in the 1790s to the spread of movable-type printing in Europe beginning ca. 1450. Does the standardization of texts and measurements contribute to the progress of human history? Or are they the means by which religious movements and political regimes are increasingly able to control the thought and labor of individuals?

21H.141 Renaissance To Revolution: Europe, 1300-1800
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