HIST 346: Imperial Spain
Writing Assignment #3: Research Paper

Due Date: On or before Thursday, May 7
Length: 8-10 pages
Proportion of Final Grade: 20% (100 pts.)

Objective
This assignment seeks to demonstrate your long-term investment in a focused course of investigation on a topic area of your choosing. Ultimately, I expect you to present a mastery of the topic area through the advancement of a scholarly contribution. Additionally, your project will provide an appropriate context in which to further the development of advanced research skills.

Description
Your research paper should constitute an original contribution to a specified topic area of scholarly inquiry within the field of imperial Spanish history. Strong papers will identify the contrasting viewpoints of scholars and schools of thought. You should seek to situate yourself within such an intellectual milieu and a draw distinction between your approach and those of others. Please adhere to the following expectations:

1. Title your paper with an appropriately informative and/or thought-provoking phrase, or phrases (delimited by a colon);
2. Present an engaging research question in your introductory paragraph;
3. State an original thesis at the conclusion of your introductory paragraph;
4. Defend your thesis through the presentation of evidence drawn from primary and secondary source material;
5. Reference the words and ideas of your sources through the use of a standardized citation format: APA, Turabian/Chicago Manual Style, or MLA;
6. Consult and reference at least one (1) journal article and one (1) primary source; and,
7. Draft a bibliography, works consulted, or works cited page (not included in the page count), which includes a minimum of five (5) scholarly sources cited in your paper.