Research Essay Proposal and Bibliography (5 % of course grade): This will feature a written statement outlining your chosen topic for the research essay and the particular thesis that you will defend with evidence from your research. If you are unable to formulate a working thesis for this assignment, then you must propose an analytical question about the topic that the essay will seek to answer. This question should assist you in forming a thesis for the essay.

This assignment also must include a preliminary bibliography featuring references for no fewer than four published scholarly sources relating to the topic. At least two of the four sources listed in your bibliography must be scholarly books (e.g. monographs or edited collections). Please note that encyclopedias of any format (online or printed) are not appropriate sources for university-level research. Encyclopedias may be used only as starting points for research. They must not form the basis of your research, nor should they be cited in your finished essay. Because many online sources are insufficiently scholarly in quality, websites should be avoided as well, with the exception of those that are recommended and approved by the instructor. You are also encouraged to locate scholarly articles in print or electronic form by using the various databases available on the library’s website (such as Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life, which, in spite of its name, contains a great deal of Canadian content). If you are uncertain of the appropriateness of any source please consult the instructor.