

Podcast Assignment Prompt

HIST 6078: The Crusader States: The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, 1099-1291

Prompt intro:

Podcasts are the episodic spoken-word downloadable digital audio programs. Easy to produce and disseminate through the internet, they represent a great way for scholars to share their research with a wide audience. To do that, though, we have to be ready to digest the complex knowledge, arguments, and source materials in ways that are comprehensible to a general listener. Listen to some examples at [e.g. from podcasts listed above], and think about what makes a successful podcast about history. When making your podcast, assume your audience has no specialist knowledge except that which they might gain from earlier podcasts (to which you may refer). Podcasts should be 10-12 minutes long, and can take many forms including monologue, interview, and debate, and can be recorded at home or at a particular location (e.g. at a museum, a place of worship, on the street, in the park). I am happy to read and comment on scripts or outlines delivered at least 48 hours before the deadline for the finished podcast.

Prompt variant #1: Topic or debate

This assignment asks you to consider the week's readings on our topic. How would you introduce them or explain them to a general audience? Explain to your audience the basic issue at hand, providing background about the events and people involved. Next, explain the different approaches or perspectives that different scholars have brought to the topic. Finally, what do you think is at stake in this conversation?

Prompt variant #2 Source or Source Type

Introduce the listening audience to the primary source at hand. What type of source is it? How was it made? In what form do historians encounter it (e.g. manuscripts and editions, in a museum or at an archeological site), and in what form is it available for the public (is it on a website?) Be sure to describe it. Why is it important for the scholars who draw upon it (note that this can include different approaches). How has it been used in the past, and how might it be used in the future?

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