History Essay Writing

Summer 2023

In this new course, we will be learning about history through the lens of a single event, the Salem witch trials, thinking widely and with reference to the historiography. The class will learn how to use sources, how to think about historical debate and how to weigh the importance of historical causes and consequences. These lessons are designed to enable students to learn about things they would not otherwise at school, supplementing the curriculum and uncovering the vast number of ways in which we can think about the subject of history. We will touch on intellectual, social, philosophical, world and political history, encouraging the students to debate concepts and develop their own historical analyses and arguments throughout. They will write an essay per week which will be graded.

***Lesson 1:* How to be a Historian**

In this lesson we will discuss how to be a historian, thinking about the key skills and gaining an introduction to our subject matter for the summer: the founding of American, isolation and witchcraft. We will think about whether historical truth exists and look at the role of art in helping construct foundational myths about history that we as historians must unpick.

***Lesson 2:* The Founding of America**

A context lesson on the founding of the USA- in this lesson we will look at the experiences of both Native people and European settlers in the 17th century, learning about the early colonisation of the USA and setting the scene for understanding the events of the Salem witch trials.

***Lesson 3:* Witchcraft in the 17th Century**

This lesson will introduce our central historical event: the Salem witch trials. We will endeavour to understand how the historical context can help us understand the events at Salem and what they tell us about gender relations, class relations, religion and hysteria in 17th century Salem.

***Lesson 4:* Source Analysis**

In this lesson we will focus on source analysis, looking at different types of both primary and secondary sources and looking at some artistic interpretations such as Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible.* We will discuss some big debate questions and complete some group work on sources.

***Lesson 5:* Mock Exam**

This lesson will contain a mock exam to help test the students’ skills, enabling them to showcase all they have learnt over the past sessions. They will be asked to complete an exam under timed conditions, after a revision period at the start of the lesson. They will have their exam graded and returned to them after the lesson.