EXAM FORMAT
- Two-Part, Three Hour Exam
  - Part I: Primary Source Analysis
    - Engage with documents and sources like those provided in the Visions textbook
  - Part II: Essay Question
    - Synthesize course material and draw conclusions about broad themes and discussion points

HOW TO STUDY
- Strategies for primary documents
  - Think contextually
    - Engage with documents within their context
  - Think systematically
    - Envision documents as part of a course theme
  - Think critically
    - Address how topics seek to contest or support a historical narrative discussed in the course

- Strategies for essay writing
  - Thematic evidence
    - Use evidence from the course that supports or contradicts a course theme to show your understanding
  - Informed discussion
    - Utilize course sources like the Visions textbook to inform your understanding and ground it in scholarly sources
  - Thoughtful conclusion
    - Apply your knowledge of the course and its themes to show how HIST 124’s methods, information or lessons are relevant to broader historical contexts

HOW TO STUDY (CONTD)
- Practicing primary documents
  - Analyze Visions (independently and in groups)
  - Past Exams (Exam Ban I)

- Practicing essay writing
  - Write essay outlines
    - Make outlines for likely questions, using evidence from the course to improve your memory and recall
  - Review core course themes
    - Discuss key course themes in groups, analyzing their usefulness for potential possible questions
  - Summarize and review major points regularly—e.g., 15 minutes’ work can help!
  - Past Exams (for past years’ essay questions)
    - Examine past exams to see how the prof phrases questions and which parts of the course are usually highlighted

STUDY AND EXAM PREP RESOURCES
- Visions textbook
  - Primary sources contained within the textbook make for great practice for Part I and scholarly evidence for Part II
- Professors and seminar leaders are still available to answer questions
- SASS online resources and templates cover key academic and writing skills:
  - Time management
  - Writing history essays
  - Compare and contrast essays
  - Memory strategies

COMMON MISTAKES
- Mass memorization
  - Attempting to memorize the entirety of the course, without addressing course themes or frequent topics
- Overwriting
  - Using extraneous or overly complex words to make your answers seem longer and more substantial than they are: focus on evidence and argument
- Lack of analysis
  - Statements describing sources rather than thinking critically and analyzing them for their content
- Fact fishing
  - Including facts in your essays or answers to make your work seem correct without considering whether facts add to your argument
- Time crunch
  - Running out of time on the exam as you spent too much or too little time on one section. Practice beforehand!

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR
- Take stock of strategies
  - Many of the useful learning strategies that work in HIST 124 also apply to other history classes, or indeed other disciplines entirely
  - Remember the experience
    - Learn from your first-year exam and apply the lessons to the winter exam and other courses:
      - What worked and what didn’t?
      - Which strategies should I use?
      - Should I ask for help next time?
      - Where did I go wrong and where can I improve?