HIST 124 – Study Tips

Exam Format:
- Three-hour exam, covering the first semester’s material
  - Primary document analysis section
  - Essay section

How to Study:

Primary Documents
- Work towards familiarizing yourself with the *Visions* textbook
- Think thematically! Use course themes to your advantage

Essay
- Engage with materials thematically, not just chronologically!
- Utilize historical context and frame your arguments with facts

Practice Questions:

Primary Documents
- Use *Visions* to practice primary source analysis with samples
- Study past exams and their primary sources for more material
- Work through *Visions* in a group to understand themes even better!

Essay
- Produce outlines for likely essay questions, packed full of useful evidence!
- Improve your knowledge by reviewing themes in groups
- Use past exams to your advantage! Practice your skills on past questions

Common Mistakes:
- Mass Memorization
  - Reviewing the course material without using the course’s themes
- Fact Fishing
  - Including too many facts in your paper without explaining them
- Overwriting
  - Writing more for the sake of lengthening your exam paper
- Lack of Analysis
  - Stating facts without analyzing them, proving you memorized rather than understood the material
- Time Crunch
Spending too much or too little time on a section for its assigned weight

**Going Forward:**

- **Take Stock of the Experience!**
  - Many of the strategies that worked for you in HIST 124 will apply in other courses. Even those not in History at all!
- **Appreciate Your Success**
  - Notice which strategies worked for you while you studied for the exam.
- **Examine Your Shortcomings**
  - Find out which strategies didn’t work when you studied.
  - Why didn’t they? Think about how you could use a different strategy next time to work more efficiently.

**Exam Prep Resources**

- SASS has many exam resources that are helpful for HIST 124, all of which can be found on our website, [www.sass.queensu.ca](http://www.sass.queensu.ca):
  - Time Management
  - Writing History Essays
  - Compare and Contrast Essays
  - Communicating with Professors and TFs
  - Memory Strategies
  - Motivation and Procrastination
  - Exam Prep - [https://sass.queensu.ca/exam-prep/](https://sass.queensu.ca/exam-prep/)