

Medieval History 204
Paper 1 Assignment: Document Analysis

PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING CONTAINS CHANGES FROM THE SYLLABUS

Read Einhard's *Life of Charles the Great*, found in your Geary sourcebook.¹ We will discuss the text in class on Wednesday 30 September. Then write a three-page paper, due **Monday 5 October at the start of class (11 am)**, in which you do the following.

First, BRIEFLY answer the following general questions about this text to the best of your ability (using the introduction on p. 282 and any internal evidence you find): who wrote it? When? What were the author's purpose and audience for this text?

Second, select any ONE aspect of Charlemagne's activities that Einhard describes (i.e. military achievements, political savvy, family life, attitude to culture and education, personality, and so on—be creative). Briefly summarize what Einhard tells us on your chosen subject, and then analyze why you think Einhard emphasizes this aspect of Charlemagne.

Finally, discuss the following: what kind of image of ideal royalty is Einhard attempting to paint, and how does this element fit in? Do you think this is a trustworthy view of Charlemagne and his empire for a historian to use? Why or why not? Part of your task is to consider the limitations of the source (and of any single source), but also to consider it as a resource that historians must use as fully as possible to understand the period. Please do NOT use any outside sources to complete this assignment.

Please be aware of the following guidelines:

1. Your paper must have an argument or thesis, stated clearly in the introduction.
2. You must use proper footnote form for all citations. See models for first full citation and subsequent citations below.²
3. The paper should not simply be a list of what you find in the document—you must organize your observations and analysis, and you must present a thesis.
4. Papers will be graded for spelling, grammar, style, and citation format as well as content.

On Friday 2 October we will NOT have a regular class session. Rather, I will be there, ready to talk to you about your rough drafts—a sort of paper workshop, if you will. If you choose not to come, that is your decision. But if you want help from me to make your paper as good as possible, then I am there as a resource. **Your ticket for entry is a rough draft or extensive typed outline IN HAND.**

PLEASE NOTE:

1. The material that was assigned for Friday 2 October in the Geary and Rosenwein sourcebooks IS STILL FAIR GAME FOR THE FINAL. READ THESE TEXTS!!!
2. This is the only such paper workshop I will hold this term. For example, for the second paper (due Friday 16 October) we will have a normal discussion section the day the paper is due. So take advantage of this one.
3. You should also use my office hours and the writing center for further help.

¹ Einhard, "Life of Charlemagne," in *Readings in Medieval History*, third edition, ed. Patrick J. Geary (Peterborough, Canada: Broadview Press, 2003), pp. 282-96.

² Einhard, "Life of Charlemagne," p. 283.