

THEMES IN WORLD HISTORY
PLAYING THE GAME OF THRONES
15 HIST 1016
PAPER ASSIGNMENT #1
“Legitimacy of Charlemagne”
DUE MIDNIGHT FRI. SEPT. 26TH

Our first case study this semester has focused on the reign of Charlemagne, King of the Franks, King of the Lombards, and Emperor of Rome. To achieve these lofty titles, Charlemagne relied on numerous forms of legitimation. He inherited certain of his titles from his father and grandfather, both of whom brought fame to the Carolingian dynasty. He earned other titles and lands on the battlefield. Other titles were granted him by the Catholic Church. In other cases he called on the history of the Roman Empire to solidify his claims. When we look back at the career of Charlemagne, what was the most important factor in not only claiming these titles but in proving his legitimacy as a ruler? How do authors like Einhard remember Charlemagne and justify his rule? What do the claims made by Charlemagne tell us about the expectations of the people of 8th century Europe and their image of the good king?

To address these questions, you must make direct reference to our course readings including Becher, *Charlemagne* and primary source documents assigned in class, using quotations and citations where necessary. You may also use other class readings and lecture notes, but please cite all of your sources properly. Make sure you place the reign of Charlemagne in its proper historical context. Be careful about engaging in “Google-shipping,” do not rely on un-academic sources on the web, including Wikipedia. You will be able to complete this paper using only course materials.

All papers **MUST** be at least 1,500 words (approximately FIVE (5) full pages) in length. Do not submit a paper that is either overly short or overly long. A paper of less than 1,500 words will not receive full credit.

You **MUST** use 12 point font and 1” (one inch) margins and your paper **MUST** be double spaced.

All papers must be submitted via Blackboard (and passed through SafeAssign) by midnight on Friday Sept. 26th. Late papers will be deducted 1 point (out of a total of 15) for every 24 hours they are late. For example, a paper submitted on Sept. 27th will lose 1 point from the final grade and a paper submitted on Sept. 28th will lose 2 points.

I and our TAs will be happy to read drafts and offer feedback, but only in Office Hours. Please come with a printed copy of your paper and allow enough time for us to read your paper and then discuss it with you. If you cannot meet with one of us during our posted office hours and you would like to discuss your paper, please contact me about scheduling an appointment.