

Grading for this assignment will be based on answer quality, logic / organization of the paper, and language and writing skills, using the following rubric.

Points: 100		Assignment 1: Essay – Exploring Ancient Mysteries				
Criteria		Unacceptable 0% F	Meets Minimum Expectations 65% D	Fair 75% C	Proficient 85% B	Exemplary 100 A
1. Clearly state the “mystery” and provide a brief summary of at least two (2) reasonable and scholarly theories which could explain the mystery. Because some theories may sound far-fetched, include the source or promoter of each theory – such as a scientist, a historian, a theologian, etc. Weight: 40%		Did not submit or incompletely stated the “mystery”. Did not submit or incompletely provided a brief summary of at least two (2) reasonable and scholarly theories which could explain the mystery. Did not submit or incompletely included the source or promoter of each theory – such as a scientist, a historian, a theologian, etc.	Insufficiently stated the “mystery” and insufficiently provided a brief summary of at least two (2) reasonable and scholarly theories which could explain the mystery. Insufficiently included the source or promoter of each theory – such as a scientist, a historian, a theologian, etc.	Partially stated the “mystery” and partially provided a brief summary of at least two (2) reasonable and scholarly theories which could explain the mystery. Partially included the source or promoter of each theory – such as a scientist, a historian, a theologian, etc.	Satisfactorily stated the “mystery” and satisfactorily provided a brief summary of at least two (2) reasonable and scholarly theories which could explain the mystery. Satisfactorily included the source or promoter of each theory – such as a scientist, a historian, a theologian, etc.	Thoroughly stated the “mystery” and effectively provided a brief summary of at least two (2) reasonable and scholarly theories which could explain the mystery. Thoroughly included the source or promoter of each theory – such as a scientist, a historian, a theologian, etc.
2. Identify one (1) of the theories as the most plausible and provide at least two (2) convincing reasons why the theory you have chosen is the best one to explain the mystery. Weight: 35%		Did not submit or incompletely identified one (1) of the theories as the most plausible and did not submit or incompletely provided at least two (2) convincing reasons why the theory you have chosen is the best one to explain the mystery.	Insufficiently identified one (1) of the theories as the most plausible and insufficiently provided at least two (2) convincing reasons why the theory you have chosen is the best one to explain the mystery.	Partially identified one (1) of the theories as the most plausible and partially provided at least two (2) convincing reasons why the theory you have chosen is the best one to explain the mystery.	Satisfactorily identified one (1) of the theories as the most plausible and satisfactorily provided at least two (2) convincing reasons why the theory you have chosen is the best one to explain the mystery.	Thoroughly identified one (1) of the theories as the most plausible and thoroughly provided at least two (2) convincing reasons why the theory you have chosen is the best one to explain the mystery.

<p>3. Three (3) references minimum (including class text); Reference quality Weight: 5%</p>	<p>No references provided</p>	<p>Does not meet the required number of references; all references poor quality choices.</p>	<p>Does not meet the required number of references; some references poor quality choices.</p>	<p>Meets number of required references; some references poor quality choices.</p>	<p>Meets or exceeds number of required references; all references high quality choices.</p>
<p>4. Follows writing standards. Meets page minimums. Weight: 20%</p>	<p>Followed few to no writing standards. Did not meet page minimums.</p>	<p>Followed few writing standards. May not have met page minimums.</p>	<p>Followed some writing standards. May not have met page minimums.</p>	<p>Followed most writing standards. Met page minimums.</p>	<p>Followed all writing standards. Met page minimums.</p>