

Book Review Assignment (5% of your final grade) - Fall 2024 – HIS 4100

Students are required to read one of the course textbooks, *Mafalda: A Social and Political History of Latin America's Global Comic*. [Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2019], and submit a formal book review by September 26 (Week 07).

When you read the book - What stands out? What questions arise? What is the historical context in the story of Quino and his iconic creation, Mafalda? What are the author's goals and methodologies? What works in the book? Where does the book struggle to capture your attention? Above all, how does the book shed light on the Argentine middle class? etc.



In your formal book review, provide an overall analysis of the entire book that mirrors professional book reviews (see checklists below). Assignment will be posted on AsULearn. Grades will be final, but you can revise and resubmit if you are not satisfied with your grade. Resubmissions are due seven (7) days after you receive the initial grade.

Here is an example of the Assessment Form you will receive ...

Book Reviewer:

Book Title: *Mafalda: A Social and Political History of Latin America's Global Comic.*

STRUCTURE

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Choose ▾ | Offers a useful and concise synopsis of the book |
| Choose ▾ | Explains the main argument (thesis) presented by the author |
| Choose ▾ | Outlines the book's structure (chapter breakdown) |
| Choose ▾ | Makes the case of the book's value to historians of Latin America, middle class, etc. |
| Choose ▾ | Explains how this book engages with similar academic books - usually found in the |
- Introduction
- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Choose ▾ | Offers smart critiques or suggestions (shows great understanding of the book) |
|-----------------|---|
-

TECHNICAL

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Choose ▾ | 650-700 word review |
| Choose ▾ | Written for a general audience |
| Choose ▾ | Single space; or 1.5 lines (ideal) |
| Choose ▾ | Typography: Times New Roman 12 font, 1" margins all around. |
| Choose ▾ | Citation: in Chicago Manual of Style, at the top of page one |
| Choose ▾ | Spelling – grammar is as error-proof as possible. |
| Choose ▾ | Submitted on time by Sep 26, 2024 |
| Choose ▾ | <i>Final version submitted on time (if re-submitted)</i> |
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Overall Quality – Comments:

-

Here are some helpful things to consider as you write your review ...

Suggestions

1. Write the book review with a clear voice (avoid academic-ese jargon). The tone is formal, but it lets your voice come through in a casual and accessible manner to readers.
2. Engage with the author (“Although Cosse argues that..., she often struggles to...”)
3. Present a clear, concise analysis
4. Situate this book with other readings – explain how the book compliments any course readings, or how it offers a different take
5. Develop clear, organizational paragraphs.
6. Present a short, tight, solid conclusion.
7. Book review has a clear audience in mind

We will look at examples in class, but they are also posted on the course website