Essay I. Due in lecture January 20.
Source: Week 1 and Week 2 readings.
Topics:
A. What aspects of the sermon Urban II preached at the Council of Clermont (launching what became the First Crusade) were designed to address the kinds of problems in Christian Europe that are depicted in Raoul of Cambrai?
OR
B. Judging from the Crusade readings, how did Muslim and Christian religious leaders justify urging war against each other? Did they perceive these conflicts in purely religious terms?

Essay II. Due in lecture February 24.
Source: Week 6 and Week 7 readings.
Topics:
A. Some of the letters of Catherine of Siena and Petrarch, written in the mid-fourteenth century, discuss problems in the Church. So does Erasmus' *Julius Excluded from Heaven*, which was written in 1514, roughly a century and a half later. Judging from these texts, how had reform concerns shifted? How might you account for these changes?
OR
B. In the Week 7 readings, sixteenth-century Europeans discuss peoples in the New World and also write about their own society. Judging from these texts, how did their reflections on native Americans influence how they thought about themselves?

Each essay should be **900-1000 words**, typed and double-spaced.
**Be sure to cite the evidence directly;** parenthetic citations are fine. Example: (Erasmius, *Julius Excluded from Heaven*, course reader, p. 157.)

Your essays will be evaluated on how well you use evidence to build an original argument.