

**HIST348
Peoples of Kansas
Fall 2009**

Scholarly Book Review Assignment

For this assignment, you will write a 4-6 page scholarly review of **two** of these three monographs: Miner and Unrau's *End of Indian Kansas*, Riney-Kehrberg's *Rooted in Dust*, or Bailey's *Sex in the Heartland*. The review should include a brief synopsis of the book's content, discussion of the argument and the author's use of evidence, and some attention to the book's strengths and weaknesses. Remember that book *reviews* are not the same as book *reports*, which simply summarize what the book is about. It is important for you to demonstrate that you read the book and fully understand the argument the author is making, but this is not a reaction paper, so do not use the first person pronoun "I." For a more detailed discussion of how to write a review, see pp. 67-71 in Jules Benjamin's *A Student's Guide to History*. You can also find sample reviews on databases like JSTOR and History Cooperative (although these are usually shorter).

Your review must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, with standard margins. Put your name, the course name, and the date in the top corner of the page. Remember to add page numbers. Book reviews do not generally include quotations, but if you do choose to include a quotation from the book use the Chicago/Turabian footnotes style for the citation.

The assignments are due on the following days. Remember that you are not required to write all three; if you write more than two, only the first two you turn in will be graded.

September 24 **Review of Miner and Unrau due by 4:00pm**

November 12 **Review of Riney-Kehrberg due by 4:00pm**

December 3 **Review of Bailey due by 4:00pm**

Upload your papers to the SafeAssign box on Blackboard as a Rich Text (.rtf) file **AND** turn in your hard copy at the beginning of class. Late papers will be docked one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late (the weekend will count as one day).

Grading Rubric:

Length, formatting, and footnotes	30 pts.
Grammar, style, scholarly tone, etc.	25 pts.
Clear presentation of book's thesis/evidence	50 pts.
Critical thinking	20 pts.
Strengths and/or weaknesses	25 pts.