**HIS 102-001: History of Western Civilization II**

**FINAL PROJECT: PowerPoint Presentation on a contemporary issue involving the West and the World!**

**Introduction**: For your final project, you will be on stage, requiring your own research, preparation and 100% participation (the majority of your final grade depends on this)! You will create and present a PowerPoint presentation on a contemporary issue involving the West and the World. ***Note***: If you do not know how to use PowerPoint, I can easily teach it to you within twenty minutes. If the majority of class needs this instruction, I will give a PowerPoint tutorial. If you do not have PowerPoint, you can download it for free for 60 days at <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/suites/default.aspx>.

**Due Date**: Final Exams/Projects are due for presentation during the last two class periods. **Please** **bring your saved project on a flash drive. The end of semester is December 15.**

**Required readings**: Spielvogel, chap. 30, pp.935-965. Search for topic ideas as you read. I am open to other ideas besides the ones listed below.

**Topics:**

1. The history of conflict in Palestine/Israel, with a focus on Western involvement—Who is to blame?
2. The collapse of the Soviet Union—What was the impact on Europe? Focus on the eastern European countries, such as Germany and Poland.
3. Globalization, world energy use and crisis—What alternative sources of energy should the West and the world research, develop and use?
4. Global terrorism and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—How are terrorism and these wars linked and how should the West respond?
5. Nuclear development in North Korea and Iran—How should the West respond?
6. The history of genocide, 1945-present (Note: Do not focus on the Holocaust). Has the West effectively acted against such violations of human rights? You should especially focus on the war in Bosnia and its episode of “ethnic cleansing” as well other places in the world where the West got involved in trying to stop such atrocities.
7. Russia and the conflict over the nation of Georgia—Will there be a new Cold War and how should the West respond?
8. The issue of guest workers and immigrants in Europe—What rights do they deserve and should their services and numbers be limited in countries with strained economies?
9. The digital age—What is the Digital Age, and what are its products, results and dangers?
10. Other topic(s)? Please see me with your proposed thesis statement and preliminary research.

**Project Requirements: Twelve-fifteen (12-15) slides with an introduction and thesis statement, body, conclusion and a bibliographic list of sources. Your thesis statement should address the central question that I provided for your topic, and you should use a wealth of evidence to back up your arguments. Yes, a PowerPoint presentation is a lot like a well-organized research paper, except that it also involves the creative use of visuals, subtitles and probing questions to get us to think! Your bibliography must contain at least five credible sources. Please see me with questions.**