

BOOK REVIEW GUIDELINES

- CONTENT: ¹
 - ¶¹ The opening paragraph should present the book which is being reviewed. As briefly as possible, the major objectives and intentions of the book should be presented. This paragraph should present the thesis of the book as well as any bias that the book may have.
 - ¶³⁻⁴ The next couple of paragraphs should discuss the major points made in the book and discuss them at some length. Here, you would want to give some specific examples.
 - ¶³⁻⁴ These paragraphs should deal with the major negative criticisms (weaknesses) and the major positive (strengths) of the book. These criticisms may come from your own knowledge, other readings, or your own personal experience. You might also make some suggestions on how the book could have been improved. You should substantiate your criticisms. What, of significance, did you learn from the book? Has the book caused you to change or reevaluate the way understand something?

- STYLE:
 - You should include a title page, blank page, text, and bibliography in your book review as described in the *Manual of Form and Style for The Department of History and The Department of Religion and Philosophy*. This document should also be consulted in regards to margins, paragraph indentation, pagination, page numbering, font size and type, line-spacing, and all other matters of style. In a book review it is acceptable to make parenthetical references.
 - Copies of the *Manual of Form and Style for The Department of History and The Department of Religion and Philosophy* are available at the circulation desk in the Library and on the internet: <http://eagle.wbcoll.edu/rfoster> .
 - Quotes should generally be avoided in a book review. If you believe that it is absolutely necessary to quote a particular passage, you should limit yourself to one quote of less than four lines of text.
 - No headings, subheadings, or outlining should be used in the paper.

¹These suggestions on content are based on Jacques Barzun and Henry F. Graff, *The Modern Researcher*, 5th ed. (Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College, 1977), 221.