

Instructions for paper #2

Write a 4-5 page paper (about 1200-1500 words) on Lorenzo Valla's *The Profession of the Religious*. You may choose a topic to write on. If you're stuck, try one of the following:

- Valla wrote *The Profession of the Religious* as a dialogue. What does the form imply about the content: that is, how does the fact that the work is a dialogue affect how we use it as a source for understanding humanism? (If you choose this topic, consider using Petrarch's text and Valla's treatise on the Donation of Constantine as points of comparison.)
- Compare Petrarch and Valla on the value of the religious life. How do their judgments differ, and how do you explain the differences? Based on these two sources, what can you suggest about how humanists' views of the secular life changed over the century between Petrarch and Valla?

At the end of your paper, include a "reflections" paragraph addressing the following questions: (1) What aspect of the paper are you most satisfied with? (2) What aspect are you least satisfied with? (3) What kinds of comments from your readers would be most helpful?

Your paper should be typed, double-spaced, with at least 1-inch margins on all sides. Pages should be numbered. Sources should be documented with footnotes, following the guidelines in Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed., or Harvey, *Writing with Sources*. If you use Harvey, your footnotes should follow the CMS style indicated in section 4.2, beginning on p. 44. You do not need a bibliography for this paper.

Advice from the last paper, repeated today: Before you draft your paper, read Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, chapter 14 (starting on p. 222) about introductions and conclusions. You should also read Harvey, *Writing with Sources*, chapters 1-3, on effectively integrating sources in papers, when to cite and not to cite, and how to avoid plagiarism.

Your paper is due on Monday, March 8, at 5 p.m., posted to the WebCT discussion topic "Paper #2 drafts." It should be posted in Microsoft Word, RTF, or PDF format. RTF or PDF are preferable, because most word processors can open RTF files and any computer with Adobe Reader can open PDF files. If you have problems posting your paper, get in touch with me. I suggest that you finish your draft and try to post it by the morning of Feb. 12, so that if there are any problems you can bring them up in class Thursday afternoon.

You will receive comments from me and from two peer readers by 1 p.m on Friday, March 12. A revised draft of the paper is due on Tuesday, March 23, at 5 p.m., also posted to WebCT, but you can take a couple extra days with no penalty if you need them.