

### **Instructions for paper #3**

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

- What is the serious point behind Erasmus's irony in *The Praise of Folly*? Why would he choose to develop that point in a mock oration instead of a more forthright treatise?
- On the basis of Erasmus's letter to Martin Dorp, reconstruct the arguments that Dorp used to condemn *The Praise of Folly*. Then discuss how Erasmus responds to the arguments. Did Erasmus respond in good faith, or was he engaged in "damage control"?

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 first 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 Thursday, April 1, at 5 p.m., posted to the WebCT discussion topic "Paper #3 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.

You will receive comments from me and from two peer readers by 1 p.m on Tuesday, April 6 (though, because of a weekend trip, I may not have mine to you until April 8). A revised draft of the paper is due on Tuesday, April 13, at 5 p.m., also posted to WebCT.