

His 2500. Spring 2012. **Assignment 1.** Write a two-paragraph essay (about 250 words, 12 pt, double-spaced) comparing and contrasting historical films and history books. Due Jan. 19. Bring a hard copy to class with two different colored pens (or a pen and a pencil), along with *Revising Prose*.

Your first paragraph should begin (paragraph topic sentence): “Both historical films and history books....” You should include three substantive points.

Your second paragraph should begin: “Historical films and history books differ because....” You should include three substantive points.

Quotes for reflection (not part of your paper necessarily)

“I often think it odd that it should be so dull, for a great deal of it must be invention.” Catherine Morland on History (Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey*, Ch. XIV)

“[There is] a question which puzzles many people: `How can History be of any value in use when what it tells us is so uncertain? Every historian differs from every other, and all discard their predecessors' views with every generation. With such instability about the past, which manifestly cannot change or be changed, History seems hardly knowledge, only a serious kind of entertainment.” –Jacques Barzun and Henry F. Graff, *The Modern Researcher*, 5th ed. (Fort Worth, 1992), 40-1