VI: Assignments

Assignment 1: Primary Source Exploration – Two Pages Maximum (10 points)
You have been down in the stacks of a library and have found a box full of old, crinkled papers and fading photographs. In one corner of the box is a ticket stub from a football game played long ago. None of these documents are marked with much information. Some may have a date. Some have something scrawled on them. These are known as primary source documents. How do you find out more information? What can you do to begin to get to know more about the event, the situation, the people?

You realize you are now somewhere between historical researcher and Monk (CSI, Law and Order SVU, The Closer, etc). You pick out one item to explore. And you begin to ask a series of questions about it such as when, who was involved, what else was going on at the time, what was the significance for the institution, for higher education, for society.

Now, what do you need to locate to help answer the questions? What journals might be helpful? Are there different angles to explore? For instance the ticket stub: Was this a special game? What rules were used? Was someone famous on the field or the stands?

There will be posted to Blackboard several primary source documents, mostly photographs. Pick ONE of the documents. The assignment is to comprehensively complete the Primary Source Analysis Sheet located at the end of the syllabus with its rubric.

Step One: Identify

Step Two: Analyze

What actions or events are taking place?

Step Three: Questions*

What questions immediately come to mind? Please be thorough. (5pts)

Step Four: What Biases Do You Have Regarding the Event?

What preconceptions do you have that may influence your research process?

Step Five: What Areas of Inquiry/Research Can Be Applied?* (5pts)