

The Other People's Money paper

History 202
Spring 2009
Dr. Payne

Due Date: Friday March 13

Based on your reading of Louis Brandies' *Other People's Money and How Bankers Use It*, including the introduction by Melvin Urofsky, you are to place the current crisis in the financial sector in historical context. You should do so by offering an analysis of Brandies' original thesis and then to what extent does it apply to today.

The Specifics:

The paper should be 5 – 7 pages, typed, double spaced.

In terms of your paper, think of this as a compare and contrast paper.

What conditions did Brandies describe? What solutions did he proscribe? What is his perspective on this? He is considered a leading progressive, but what does this mean? Can you separate the facts he uses from his ideological proscriptions to the problem?

Your primary interest is to ask yourself, does history repeat itself? Are Brandies' analysis and ideas relevant to today? In what way is it relevant? How have things changed and not changed?

In addition to the book, you need to consult at least six different significant articles on the current economic crisis. These need to be pieces of substance, of approximately 500 words, offering insight into the crisis. Of the six sources, diversify so no more than two are from the same author or publication.

Be sure to consult my general instructions for paper on the syllabus and my web page. Be sure you have a clear thesis and conclusion.

To write this paper, you will need to have a clear and concise understand of Brandies and current events. Obviously, I don't expect you to write a book on the topic. You will want to focus on a few specific items. I would advise you to focus on bigger topics such as the cause of the crisis, the consolidation of the banking and finance industry, the role of the government, etc.

Where to look?

Obviously, you should begin your research in the Friedsam Library, making use of both the library and the database the library provides. This will lead you to a variety of sources. Other places you might look for coverage of the economy include:

The Economist (www.economist.com)

The Wall Street Journal (<http://online.wsj.com/home-page>)

The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)

Bloomberg's (<http://www.bloomberg.com/>)

NPR: Planet Money (<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/>)

Fortune (<http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/>)