

Your paper should be an analytical research study on a specific topic related to the course. Your topic can relate to any aspect of the course, but it should not be so broad that you cannot adequately explore it. The paper should be limited to 10-12 double spaced pages in length.

Read the pertinent books on your topic. The papers should emphasize the authors' interpretations as well as your own conclusions. If possible, include some primary sources in your research.

The mechanics of your papers should follow an acceptable format. Footnote an author's interpretive statements. Include a critical bibliography consisting of a few sentences for each work, explaining the value of the book to your topic.

Steps in preparing a research paper area as follows:

1. Select a topic. The tendency will be to select too broad a topic. The length of the paper should be kept in mind in order that you will select a topic that can be explored adequately within the page limit. The topic must be cleared with the course instructor before you proceed with your research.
2. Prepare a general outline to show the potential direction of the paper. Also gather a preliminary bibliography. The outline and preliminary bibliography should be shown to the instructor within a week or two of the beginning of the term. After this meeting, and upon the instructor's approval of your outline, proceed with continuing your research.
3. Begin reading in the books that pertain to your topic. Start with the more general books first. Start to take notes regarding your specific topic. Be sure to record specific bibliographic reference information for each note that you may potentially use within your paper. As you read you will find that the outline of the research topic will need to be revised.
4. After completing reading and note-taking, write a rough draft of your paper topic following your revised outline. Do not hesitate to revise the outline further if the resource materials require it.
5. Writing the paper is as important as conducting adequate research for the project. Any good paper will require three or more drafts before it can be considered complete. After it appears that you have a "final" draft then read the paper and additional time to catch grammatical or stylistic problems in the text. Make certain that your thoughts "flow" throughout the paper.

*NOTE-* The instructor retains a copy of the paper. Accordingly, two copies of the paper will need to be provided in order for you to receive a marked copy.