

Guide to Research Paper

Black Women in the Black Freedom Struggle

Final Paper

Students are required to write a research/historiographical paper, 12-15 pages. Proposals for the paper are due March 4th. The final essay is due May 8th @ 2pm.

The essay must be double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 font size, and one-inch margins. The best essays will be those that consider the specificity of place and time, change and continuity over time, and the role(s) of social, political, and economic forces during the historical moment. Thus, you must provide a historical context, evidence, and facility with various conceptual/theoretical tools. Use examples from the lecture, articles, and primary sources as evidence to describe, illustrate, and validate your position. All essays will use the *Chicago Manual of Style* for citations.

Potential Research Projects:

Students can write an historiographical paper based mainly on secondary sources (at least 5), a thematic paper and an black women activists, an organization, or various roles in different freedom struggles, etc . . .; or a research paper based mainly on primary sources (at least 15 sources, 5 of which must be secondary/ and at least 10 must be primary sources); projects should focus on one or more of the major themes of the course(civil rights, labor movement, transnational movements, black radicalism, etc . . .).

Proposal

Due March 4th

Choose 3 potential topics. Write one paragraph per topic for a total of 3 paragraphs. For each topic, propose a tentative research question or theme/period (2nd source based). A research question is an inquiry (or a set of questions) that helps you narrow down your topic and provides a framework or blueprint to organize you project. More specifically, research questions generally pose questions that are debatable. You therefore use your research, evidence, and argumentation to answer that question(s). Your thesis (or main argument) is the "answer" to that question.

In addition to the research question, describe the topic, themes, periodization, and the kinds of primary/secondary sources you will use for the project. Finally, you need to indicate what kind of essay you will write. Research? Historiographical?