

## Alternative Paper Assignment

**Assignment.** You will have the option in this class to write one long paper (the alternative paper assignment) in lieu of the final two separate shorter papers.

In this longer alternative paper, you would formulate and introduce a critical problem (and this means positioning your formulation with respect to previous criticism), take a position that engages the problem, and support its ideas with well-chosen evidence and careful reasoning. The paper should be 15 to 20 pages long and include a works cited list.

The specific topic will be yours to select and develop. The course should guide and inspire this selection, and I am happy to meet with you to suggest possible directions and potential sources. Ideally, your personal interests, the reading, the classroom discussions, and your outside research will all contribute to the development of your paper topic. The exact topic of the paper is yours to decide, though there is an expectation that your paper will examine in some significant way the texts on our reading schedule.



**Conferences.** If you want to try the alternative paper assignment, you must meet with me for a brief paper or brainstorming conference on or before Wednesday, **March 5th**.

**Proposals** On Thursday, **April 3rd**, you will hand in a written, one-page paper proposal. The proposal should be clear and specific, though I realize that some papers will change their exact approach or focus between the time of the proposal and the day the final paper is due

**Due Date.** Thursday, **April 17th**

**Length.** 15-20 typed, double-spaced pages

**Revisions.** After I return your papers, please read my comments. If at that point, you would like to revise your paper, please do so. Revisions will be due on before May 8th. A revision must be substantially improved to merit a grade change. To submit a revision, please write a one-paragraph summary explaining why and how you revised and hand it in with both the revised version and the old version with my comments.

**Let's Talk.** If you have questions or concerns about your paper or you just want someone to bounce some ideas off of, please drop by the office to talk with me. I enjoy talking with students about their work, so please don't hesitate to meet with me. I'll be in my office during my office hours (Mon 2:00-3:00, Tue 1:30-2:30, Wed 2:30-3:30). If those times don't fit with your schedule, I would be happy to set up some other time to meet with you.