

Writing Assignment III: Term Paper

Due Date: Tuesday May 9th.

An optional term paper of not more than 15 pages is due in class on Tuesday, May 9. The maximum of your grade on this assignment and your grade on the midterm will be used to calculate your final grade in the course. If you decide to write a term paper, you must provide notification of your intent to do so by Tuesday, April 25.

Requirements:

- 1) Send an email before April 25 at 11:59 PM to both jdr@econ.berkeley.edu and czelusta@stanford.edu to notify us of your intent to write the term paper. (Those of you have already spoken with both of us are exempt from this requirement).
- 2) 15 or fewer double-spaced pages with 11 point or greater font and one-inch margins. This limit is all-inclusive (i.e., includes graphs, tables, references, etc.).
- 3) Submit both a hard copy in class and an electronic copy in rich text format (.rtf) via email to czelusta@stanford.edu with jdr@econ.berkeley.edu in cc.
- 4) No late assignments will be accepted.

Goal:

To develop and defend a thesis.

Guidelines:

You have developed a question. You have proposed and tested one or more potential answers. This assignment is an opportunity to pursue your ideas to the next stage by writing an historical research paper.

Your paper should resemble a slightly “scaled-down” version of (for instance) one of the course readings. This means that you should present a question and a thesis, and then proceed to defend this thesis.

While exceptions exist, research papers should generally contain at least the following: 1) an introduction that gives a clear statement of your question/puzzle and thesis; 2) a brief, relevant literature review; 3) (drawing on your literature review and perhaps your own ideas) empirical analysis (data and history) and/or theory to substantiate your thesis; 4) a conclusion that summarizes your argument; and 5) references formatted according to an accepted bibliographical style.

Please note: It is not recommended that you write the term paper if it will detract from your preparation for the final exam.