

Final Research Paper

In this paper, you will develop a long essay on a research topic of your choice related to one or more of the books and/or writers we have read this semester.

Topic and Approach

Think of *one recurring theme or similarity* that you see in the work of one or more of the writers we've covered this semester and write a paper that explores that theme in depth, using specific examples, and using outside sources or critical work to examine the theme. You can choose to concentrate on a single theme in one writer's work or follow a theme in the work of several writers. Note, however, that you *must use writers that we have read this semester*. Topics broadly related to the theme of the course (writing by or about the city) will be considered.

You will need to form a thesis statement and use readings from class *and* outside sources to defend it. A helpful way to think about it is to pose this as a research question you want to answer.

Format:

Papers should be typed double space, 12 point Times font (this is 12-point Times) and 1" margins. **Please staple all pages** and do not use cover pages or report covers: they are unnecessary and unwanted.

Format:

- Papers should be 7 pages in length (plus works cited page) in length
- Typed double space, 12 point Times font (this is 12-point Times) and 1" margins.
- **Papers should be submitted via e-mail (ONLY) as MS Word files.** Please pay close attention to format, punctuation, and style.
- Submit to hank.williams [at] lehman.cuny.edu
- Should have a minimum of 4 sources

Sources and citations

Citations from outside sources should be done using the Modern Language Association (MLA) format, which is standard for the humanities. All sources should be listed on a works cited page at the end of the paper. See the Lehman College Library and/or the Academic Center for Excellence in 205 of the Old Gym building for more in-depth assistance on the MLA citation format. You are expected to use sources appropriate for college-level research. In summary, mainstream news/magazine articles, books, and scholarly journals (including ones retrieved through internet databases) are fine. **Not**

acceptable are Wikipedia, random websites/ blogs, self-help books, religious texts (Bible, Qu'ran, etc.), Facebook entries, self-published books and zines, etc. If in doubt, *ask* me. Possible sources to look for are author interviews, literary or social criticism, or scholarly reviews of books. (The *New York Times* book review is sometimes helpful here.) **Papers without outside sources (or improperly cited sources) will be penalized.**

Deadline: E-mailed copies are due Friday, May 16th by midnight Eastern Standard Time at my Lehman e-mail: hank.williams [at] lehman.cuny.edu. I will respond that I have received it. Late papers will be penalized ½ letter grade per day late.

Grading: Will be on the scale of A-F and based on the following:

Clarity of thesis and how well it is presented/ defended
Thoroughness of explanation and use of examples
Clarity and style of writing
Mechanics (punctuation, spelling, correct word choice)
Proper use of sources (including citations).

Questions? E-mail me at: hank.williams [at] lehman.cuny.edu or see me in my office hours