RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Each student in History 499 will be presenting their work to the class during one of our last four class periods. Because we have four or five presentations per seminar meeting, each of you should plan on having your formal presentation take no more than ten to twelve (10-12) minutes. This will ensure that we have time for questions about and discussions of your work.

In your presentation you should make sure that you identify and describe the main points of your research or historiographic paper and specifically address how and where it fits into the larger literature on the subject or points to new avenues of inquiry. In preparing your presentation you may also wish to consider some of the following questions: What is the best / big idea here? What is the most interesting evidence? Why have scholarly interpretations clustered around certain sources or issues? Do you agree with the other scholarship on the topic? Where is your paper's greatest vulnerability to criticism? What does it tell us about the state of the field you are engaging? Ultimately, so what?

To keep your audience engaged as well as informed, you may also wish to provide a handout outlining your presentation that includes, for example, the title of your paper, the major points or issues, and the key evidence in support of your thesis (or, for historiographic papers, a bibliography of the major sources and their interpretations). Try to keep these handouts brief; one standard page, double-sided if necessary, should suffice. Please bring nineteen copies, of course, so that each of us can have one.

PRESENTATION GRADING CATEGORIES

Here are the categories by which your in-class presentation will be evaluated, on a 100-point scale.

Presentation (60 points)

- Enthusiasm & Engagement (10)
- Organization (20)
- Clarity of Ideas & Projection (20)
- Time Management (10)

Content (40 points)

- Argument & Supporting Evidence (15)
- Strong, Clear Thesis? (10)
- Relevance & Purpose (So What?) (10)
- Closure (5)

As always, let me know if you have any questions about this. Good luck!