

**Research Paper for Econ 5470
Spring 2006**

As indicated on the syllabus, each student will write a 10 to 15 page (typed, double spaced, 11- or 12-point type, 1" to 1.25" margins) research paper on a topic of their choosing related to US economic history. For most of you, the topic of your paper should grow out of the critical review essays you have already written. Here are some further guidelines for the paper.

DEADLINES:

THURSDAY 3/9: PAPER PROPOSAL – On this date, you will turn in a page with roughly one paragraph describing the specific topic of your research paper. This page should also include **COMPLETE CITATIONS** for **AT LEAST FOUR SOURCES** you will potentially use in your paper, along with a brief (three or four sentence) description of the contents of each source. (You may not include textbooks or lectures among your four sources.) **WHEN YOU TURN IN THIS PROPOSAL, YOU HAVE COMMITTED TO WORKING ON THE TOPIC YOU DESCRIBE.** It is therefore a good idea to spend some time thinking about the paper and evaluating sources before turning in the proposal. If you change your topic after this point, you must meet with me to discuss the reasons for the change. Changing your topic after this point without meeting with me will result in a deduction of 10 points from the grade on your paper.

TUESDAY 4/4: ROUGH DRAFT (2 COPIES) – On this date, you will turn in a complete rough draft of your paper, including proper citation of sources and a complete list of references. We will again do a “peer evaluation” of these rough drafts in class. I will also read and evaluate the rough draft and return it to you with comments by Tuesday, 4/11. You may also make an appointment to meet with me between 4/4 and 4/17 to discuss your draft.

TUESDAY 4/18: FINAL DRAFT – You will turn in the completed paper on this date. **YOU MUST ALSO TURN IN A STATEMENT REGARDING HOW YOU HAVE REVISED YOUR PAPER IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE PEER REVIEWER AND THE INSTRUCTOR, AND YOU MUST SUBMIT A COPY OF THE PAPER TO TURNITIN.COM.** Late papers will be penalized one mark (from a B+ to a B, for instance) for each day they are late.

Sources:

Each paper must include citations from at least 4 sources other than textbooks or lectures. These sources might be either articles or books. Students may not use items published on the internet as sources, unless (1) those items are also available in some other published form or (2) the on-line "publisher" is an identifiable and reliable source. For example, on-line versions of articles from magazines, journals, or newspapers are acceptable. Government web sites (such as the Census web site or the Bureau of Labor Statistics web site) are also acceptable. You can not cite as a source the websites or lecture notes of other classes, whether those classes are offered here at the U or elsewhere. (See me if you have questions about a particular source.)

Searching the Marriott Library UNIS data base will help you find relevant books. Searching an on-line academic data base like “Econlit” or “America: History and Life” will help you find journal articles. Historical Statistics of the United States (which is in our library’s reference section and is also available on-line through the library's web site) is a good source for, well, historical statistics. If you want to work with raw data, I can make census and other data sets available to you (but talk to me

about this SOON – it takes some time to learn how to process a data set). If you have not yet made use of the library's "Economics Research Guide" page, it might be useful to do so now.

Grading:

Grades will reflect content (did you find relevant material and did you interpret it in a reasonable way?), organization (did you develop a logical argument in an orderly way?), clarity (did you use proper grammar and punctuation? are word usage and spelling correct?), and form (did you cite sources thoroughly and properly? was your list of references complete, and did it fit the suggested format?).