

WGS.110J/21H.108J Final Paper Guidelines

For the final assignment of the course you will be asked to write an original research paper on a topic of your choosing. This topic should relate in some way to the history of sexuality and gender in the United States, and to the major themes we have addressed in class over the course of the semester. A paragraph describing your research topic and the sources you plan to analyze in your paper will be due by Session 10.

Requirements

All papers must include analysis of at least 3 primary sources. You will be responsible for finding these sources on your own. Primary sources can include newspaper articles, films, images, advertisements, diaries, memoirs, oral histories, manifestoes, government documents, or any materials produced by historical actors during the period of study. Students experiencing difficulty in locating primary sources should consult a librarian or me directly.

All papers should present an original argument. This argument should be unique (of your own making), compelling (it should communicate an interesting idea), and clearly articulated (a reader should have no problem identifying it). In crafting your argument, you should draw on lectures, discussions, and readings, as well as your own ideas about the history of sex, sexuality, and gender developed over the course of the term.

The argument in your paper should be supported by ample evidence. Evidence supporting your argument should come from both primary and secondary sources. Secondary sources should be drawn from assigned course materials. You may also wish to conduct secondary research of your own, but this is not required.

Papers should be 7-10 pages in length, double-spaced, written in a 12 point font (Times New Roman or an equivalent). They should include page numbers, properly formatted footnotes with accurate citations, and a title that reflects the paper's argument. Late submissions from students who have not contacted me in advance will receive a penalty of one third of a grade for each day the paper is late after the official due date.

Papers will be graded according to:

- The relevance of the paper topic to course themes
- The quality, clarity, and originality of the argument presented
- The strength of the evidence marshaled in support of that argument
- The caliber of analysis of primary sources, and the relevance of those sources to both the course and the paper's topic
- The clarity and quality of written expression (this includes style, grammar, and proper citation)

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WGS.110J / 21H.108J Sexual and Gender Identities
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