



Due Dates

Th 10/6 Proposal Due (5 points)

Tues 11/1 Draft and Bibliography Due (15 points)

Tues 11/8 Peer Review Day - bring printed draft to class

Tues 11/15 Final Draft Due (30 points)

Tues 12/6 Lightning Round Presentations (10 points) + Abstract Due (150-200 words) - 10 points

Thurs 12/8 Online Publication Deadline. All revisions / corrections due by this date.

Total: worth 35% of your final course grade (70 points)

Project Details

- Length: 1600-1800 words, plus Notes and a Further Reading section
- Name your project with a short but compelling title
- Format your essay with hyperlinks, where appropriate, and other text formatting in correct HTML
- Submit as an electronic Word document (.doc or .docx), emailed as an attachment before the start of class on the due date
- No sloppy work. Proofread your essay very carefully for spelling, verb tense, and grammar. Remember, this is being published online for anyone to see.

CITIZEN Research Project

Purpose: As a class, create a well-researched, well-written resource website exploring the history and policy dimensions of American citizenship, voting, and immigration. Each person contributes one new page to the CITIZEN site, <http://citizen.digitalworchester.org/>

Guidelines: You will design and carry out this research project over several weeks; it involves a lot of planning ahead and COUNTS FOR OVER A THIRD (35%) of your course grade. It is NOT something you can cobble together the week it is due. For that reason, I am grading the project in stages: you'll separately submit a proposal, a draft and bibliography, a final version ready and formatted for online publication, an abstract, and a short oral presentation. Since this is an upper-level seminar, the research project is an essential piece of your learning in the course and should demonstrate your best critical thinking, information literacy and written/oral communication (all three are core outcomes of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum = LASC).

Begin by studying the current version of the CITIZEN website as well as past abstracts posted on the course website to get an idea of the scope and level of analysis, and to make sure you're not duplicating a topic already covered. If you are taking the course as HI 320, your project should be historically based or clearly situated in historical context. If you are taking the course as PO 320, your project should have a policy or political science angle. Either way, you will need a command of relevant *reliable secondary sources* and you'll need to involve *primary sources* in a way that's integral to your argument. Don't take on too much – in general, deeper is better than wider. **The most important aspect of this project is that your work should be entirely original** – i.e. not merely derivative of the work of others. Rather, ask and answer a compelling citizenship-related intellectual question for yourself using your best research skills and critical thinking, and convey your findings in clear, accessible language in the format of a permanent, public website.

PLEASE NOTE: If conducting research in the humanities & social sciences is unfamiliar to you or writing is not your strength, then please make use of my office hours, the library's reference desk assistance, and the University Writing Center early and often. Do not ask for last-minute help close to deadline. Recommended reading: Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, available at the Writing Center (Sullivan 306).

PROPOSAL (due 10/6/16) - 5 points

This is NOT a vague expression of your initial ideas or what you “hope” to write about. Instead, this should be a **polished proposal based on actual early research**, laying out a well-defined core problem or question and indicating what sources you will be using for the project. In total, this shouldn't take more up than one side of a page. Submit in hard copy in class on October 6th.

RESEARCH PHASE, culminating in DRAFT and BIBLIOGRAPHY (due 11/1/16) - 15 points

Submit in hard copy on Nov 1 a complete draft between 1600 and 1800 words long (i.e. the final length), with all sources and quotations correctly cited as sequential bracket-number endnotes. Each note should contain as much of the complete information for the source as possible (see box below).

Complete Bibliographic Information is:

- Author's Full Name
- Full Title of the Work (article titles in quotations; periodical or book titles in italics)
- City, State of Publication
- Name of the Publisher
- Date of the Publication
- The URL if you accessed it online, correctly hyperlinked, as follows:
url

Attach a memo to your draft explaining anything that's still unresolved, difficult, or “under construction” in the draft. The memo, draft and bibliography will get a quick glance by me and a peer review during class on 11/8. If you want or need more than this quick check-off, I can read and comment on drafts during the week of 11/1-11/8. Individual conferences are **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**. I am unable to read or comment on a draft after 11/8.

A NOTE ON SOURCES You may ask, “how many sources should I have”? There's no magic number, but

you should consult *both primary and secondary sources* as needed to address your question, privileging peer-reviewed and other scholarly publications. Wikipedia and other similar sites (like Ask.com) are not sources you should actually cite in your essay, although consulting Wikipedia might lead you to other reliable sources, especially if you use the Notes, References and External Links at the bottom of the article. **Then again, it might not.** BUT BEFORE just Googling for answers, START with the resources on our library website **History and Political Science Subject Guide**. When in doubt about the quality or suitability of a source, CHECK WITH ME or a reference librarian!

FINAL DRAFT – Due 11/15/16 - 30 points

Your final essay should represent your best effort and be READY for web publication. Length will be 1600-1800 words, plus Notes and a Further Reading section.

As you incorporate paraphrasing, summary or quotations from your sources, remember that direct quotations should be properly introduced so the reader knows whose quote this is and how it contributes to your argument. Keep them as brief as possible, since you are on a tight word count. *Every* quotation needs a citation. Our citation format will be a modified Chicago Style, using sequential square bracket numbering instead of superscripted numbers, like this [1].

To format the essay for the web, make sure all hyperlinks within the text are properly formatted with HTML tags, as well as any other formatting like underlining, italics, or bold. Use the project resource page on the course website to help you digitally format your text. If there is some reason you cannot have your name published online, please see me to work out an alternative.

SUBMISSION OPTIONS for Nov 15

- 1) Submit the completed essay as an electronic Word document (.doc or .docx) emailed to me before start of class. Include YOUR LAST NAME in the filename so I can identify your work easily.
- 2) If you are confident with Wordpress, I can grant you guest access so you can post it to the web yourself – let me know if you would like to take that option.

REVISION – If Needed

The deadline is early enough in the term so it shouldn't conflict with final papers and projects in other classes. But it also allows a couple of weeks for possible revision before the end of the course. Sometimes successful web publication takes more than one try. Although I hope it will be rare, total revision may be an option if we both agree the final draft has fatal flaws or cannot be published as is. In such cases, you'll work with me to craft a solution and a new timetable for revision, and your overall final project grade may be adversely affected. **In all cases, final versions & revisions are due by 12/8/16.**

ABSTRACT – Due 12/6/16 - 10 points

An abstract is a 150-200 word “short version” of your longer essay. I'll provide some resources to help with writing an abstract as that date gets closer. The abstract will be published on our course website in the virtual “gallery” of student research from this course. Just like the abstracts in a scholarly journal—which are a permanent record—yours should contain keywords that would help a researcher trying to find your webpage and be a reliable, neutral brief version of your overall work. Submit it electronically, via email.

LIGHTNING ROUND PRESENTATION – Due 12/6/16 - 10 points

On December 6th, we will have a “Lightning Round” presentation day for your research projects, possibly in front of a small audience of interested scholars from across the university. Each presenter will have precisely 2 minutes (120 seconds) – so you'll need to be engaging and concise.

You have two options:

A 120-second oral presentation. PRACTICE to make sure you can do it in exactly 2 minutes!

A 6-slide mini-*Pecha Kucha* presentation. Pecha Kucha is a Japanese word, originally coined for a stylized presentation method of 20 slides, each shown for 20 seconds. For this option, prepare just 6 slides and create a timed Powerpoint slideshow in which each one appears on the screen for exactly 20 seconds. As you speak, the presentation should automatically flow from slide to slide, ending as the last slide fades. PRACTICE AHEAD.

Your lightning round presentation will be assessed on 1) the quality and clarity of your presentation's content; 2) how polished & practiced it seems; and 3) whether you present for 2 minutes – no more, no less.

Project Rubric (70 points)

	Exceeds Standard	Meets Expected Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
Proposal 5 points OCT 6	Proposal describes relevant and highly original topic, shows evidence of well-designed research strategy, and specifies excellent sources (4-5 points)	Proposal describes a focused and realistic topic, shows evidence of initial research, & specifies appropriate sources (1-3 points)	Proposal is vague, unrealistic, or does not specify enough appropriate sources that will be used. (0 points)
Draft and Bibliography 15 points NOV 1	Demonstrates thorough understanding of context, audience and purpose that is responsive to the assigned task and focuses all elements of the work. Exceeds or meets all stated guidelines. (13-15 points)	Demonstrates adequate consideration of context, audience and purpose and a clear focus on the assigned task. Meets a majority of the stated guidelines. (10-12 points)	Demonstrates minimal attention to context, audience, purpose or to the assigned task. Meets fewer than half of the stated guidelines. (0-9 points)
Final Draft 30 points NOV 15	Crafts compelling and original essay that skillfully interprets high-quality evidence, situating the research within the context of reliable historical or political science scholarship. Essay is well-organized, concise, and uses graceful language that skillfully communicates meaning to readers with clarity and fluency, virtually error-free. Notes and Further Reading sections are complete and accurately formatted using HTML where needed. (26-30 points)	Crafts solid essay that utilizes appropriate evidence, situating research within the context of historical or political science scholarship. Essay has a consistent and logical organizational structure, uses language that generally conveys intended meaning to readers with clarity, although writing may include some errors. Notes & Further Reading sections are present, though not all entries may be complete or correctly formatted. (18-25 points)	Essay topic is too broad or vaguely defined, or author does not situate the research within either historical or political science context. Essay uses too few or inappropriate sources. Organizational structure is attempted but may be inconsistent or confusing. Uses language that sometimes impedes meaning because of errors in usage. Notes and Further Reading sections are absent or incorrectly presented. (0-17 points)
Abstract 10 points DEC 6	A concise and elegant 150-200 word summary of the essay, with title and author's name, effectively conveying the content and significance of the essay. (7-10 points)	A concise 150-200 word summary of the essay, with title and author's name, conveying key parts of the content and significance of the essay. (4-6 points)	Offers summary of the essay, but may be too short, poorly organized, missing information, or containing substantive errors. (0-3 points)
Lightning Round Presentation 10 points DEC 6	A precisely-timed, high-quality 2 minute presentation delivered with clarity, enthusiasm, and polish. (8-10 points)	A solid presentation of slightly longer or shorter than 2 minutes, delivered with professionalism and evidence of preparation and practice. (6-7 points)	A presentation delivered in class but without careful attention to quality and/or time; may be lacking in clarity or professionalism. (0-5 points)