

POLITICAL ECONOMY & SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

...the point however is to change it.
<http://academic.evergreen.edu/curricular/pesm/>

Fall, Winter 2006-7

Synthesis Essay Guidelines

A synthesis essay requires you to relate the themes of different readings to each other in a clear analysis and argument. The primary purpose of the essay is to help you integrate material covered in the program to date – readings, lectures, films, seminars – in a coherent and meaningful fashion. It is therefore not necessary, nor do we expect that you do outside research. However, if you do refer to supplementary sources, they should be used sparingly and only in support of your main argument and should be fully referenced in your bibliography.

Please write an essay of 5-7 double-spaced typed pages. Your essay should draw convincingly from all or nearly all of the recent readings and other materials to date relevant to your argument (roughly materials from the three weeks prior to your group's due date). It must work in some depth with at least three sources. It needs to engage the program materials in synthesis and analysis to show your reasoning, provide evidential support, and evidence careful judgment.

It is essential that you think through your argument carefully and then well-supported by reasoning, analysis, and factual evidence. The paper should be organized around this thesis and its coherent development. A successful response needs to be concrete and well grounded in the program materials. This means you will need to carefully think through a way to frame and focus your essay so as to allow for a well-developed and plausible explanation.

Each aspect of your position or argument must be documented. Documentation answers the questions: "Where did you find this information? What sources support each point in your argument?" Documented evidence should be drawn from the program books, articles, lecture, and films. Follow a consistent documentation style Chicago, APA, or MLA for documenting your footnotes and bibliography (see the library's Citation & Style Guides through our program page or through the library homepage). You can find out more about documentation and citation at the writing center and in a writing handbook (there are plenty in the library's reference section and we've placed one on the program's reserve shelf in the library).

Please take care in your writing. This means treating your readers with respect by drafting, organizing, revising, and proofreading your essay. It should be presented with appropriate grammar, sentence structure, proofreading, citations, and a full bibliography. Your essay needs page numbers and a title.

The synthesis essays will be staggered throughout the quarter. Not everyone's essay will be due on the same day nor will they work with exactly the same material. Each seminar will be divided, as voluntarily as possible, into three groups (A, B, C). *Group A* essays will be due in Weeks 3 & 7; *Group B* will be due in Weeks 4 & 8; *Group C* will be due in Weeks 5 & 9. On the due date, you will bring to seminar 2 copies of the essay. The seminar faculty member will return one copy marked with comments, and keep the other for evaluation purposes. If the paper does not meet the paper guidelines, you may be required to submit a second draft.