

3. Participation **10%**

Option #3

1. Literature review x 2 (5-6 pages each). **50%** (first due before Reading Week, second due by last class)
2. Textual Analysis x 4 (3-4 pages each). **40%** (one per month)
3. Participation **10%**

Explanation and Expectations of Assignments.

Annotated Bibliography

At this stage students are not expected to have a thesis but only a research topic or set of questions they want to investigate that will help focus their research. The aim of the AB is to help students develop the necessary research skills to be successful in graduate school (doing research is a big part of that) and to provide a solid foundation for writing their major paper by grounding their arguments in an understanding of the relevant literature surrounding their topic. To do that, students need to read all of the relevant literature related to their topic and then select from that the most relevant sources for their project (8-10). This takes some amount of effort and time. Shortcutting the assignment by reading abstracts or not carefully considering the content of the sources not only undermines the spirit of the assignment but also puts the student at a serious disadvantage when it comes time to write the paper itself. To get into the A-A+ range, I would want to see at least two main things.

1. Include a brief description of your research topic/question. Without it, I cannot evaluate the strength and relevance of your sources, or suggest some additional sources that might help with your project. Additionally, include with each entry an abstract containing a sentence or two explaining the relevance of the source to your project. I want to see that you didn't just pick the first 8 search results on Google but carefully selected the most relevant sources for your project.
2. The abstracts should not be descriptions of what the papers do; rather, they should present a summary of the paper's central arguments (its main claim[s] and the reasons they offer in support of it).

Project Description/Outline

When writing the project description you should already be at a point in the process where you have a clear sense of what your research question is and

Good scholarly writing (a dissertation, a book, a journal article) requires a number of different skills. You need to be able to summarize the argument in the text, defend a coherent thesis supported by well-organized arguments, summarize the current state of

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