By Monday 3/24 8 PM, you should finish and send a “pre-draft” for your term paper, and on Weds. 3/26 during class period, you’ll present your ideas to your peers in groups of 3, with a 15 minute block allocated for each presentation. We’ll pass out the list of students in each group. Each group has a diverse list of topics (mostly not the ones who’ll get your paper for peer review). Auditors will be welcome to join (as listeners).

The discussion is marked on participation and on making the deadline, not on quality. We assume all of you are able to attend, unless you tell us otherwise. If anyone gets sick, etc., email Chris Henley in advance, as soon as possible: we’ll scramble to rearrange groups, locate a substitute third person to sit in, and to forward pre-drafts as needed.

If any students miss the presentation, or are judged (based on pre-draft and presentation ratings) to be essentially unprepared, we’ll arrange a make-up 15 minute meeting during the next week or two, with listeners consisting of staff and/or other students making up.

1. Write pre-draft

Reminder: the “pre-draft” is a document of at least 1 page, up to 2 pages, in the TeX format for the paper. The TeX template will be posted on course web site. It is expected to be a first pass at the introduction/conclusion parts of your term paper.

You’ll send this “pre draft” (as a pdf file) to the two others in your group and also to CLH and JPS, by Monday 3/24 at 8PM.

2. Read pre drafts

Please look for the two pre-drafts from your other group members and skim them (maybe print them out) before class Wednesday. No one expects you do look up any references! But think of what basic question you want to ask, to understand what the topic is about.

3. Preparing your story

I would guess you have the equivalent of ~ 8 minutes to explain, and the rest of the time is answering questions. You should make a brief outline for yourself including the
∼ 3 main points you need to make. All you really have time to do is explain what are the main questions, and (secondarily) tell the answers; you don’t have time to show how one gets there.

4. Discussion

Each of you has a 15 minute block (10:15-10:30, etc.) to present the basic point of your topic, and answer others’ questions. Time will be strictly enforced so we get out in time.

5. Evaluation

Every listener will fill out an anonymous form, for each presentation, ratings the other presenters on two points:

- Were they sufficiently prepared? (If there is agreement a student was extremely unprepared, they’ll be asked to make up, as explained above.)

- Is it accessible at the level of the course? (If the consensus is no, I’ll warn the student before they turn in the paper draft, otherwise this has no effect on marks.)