Guidelines for Final Paper

Students are required to write a research/historiographical paper, 12-15 pages. Proposals for the paper are due February 23rd (2:30pm).

The essay must be double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 font size, and one inch margins. The best essays will be those that consider the specificity of place and time, change and continuity over time, and the role(s) of social, political, and economic forces during the historical moment. Thus, you must provide a historical context, evidence, and demonstrate facility with various conceptual/theoretical tools and debates and questions regarding the BFM. All essays will use the *Chicago Manual of Style* for citations.

Potential Research Projects:
Students can write an historiographical paper based mainly on secondary sources (7-10) or a research paper based mainly on primary sources (at least 10 sources, at least 5 must be primary sources); projects should focus on one or more of the major themes of the course (see below). Here are a few variations on several themes of potential primary and secondary based essays:

Choose a particular theme, organizations, and period:
Civil rights outside the South; self-defense; "long civil rights"; local movements; black power; roles of black women1960s/1970s); black culture; an event from the "classical phase." Of course, you are not limited to these choices.

Proposal
Due February 23rd (2:30pm)

Choose 3 potential topics. For each topic, propose a tentative research question or theme/period (2nd source based). A research question is an inquiry (or a set of questions) that helps you narrow down your topic and provides a framework or blueprint to organize you project. More specifically, research questions generally pose questions that are debatable. You therefore use your research, evidence, and argumentation to answer that question(s). Your thesis (or main argument) is the "answer" to that question.

In addition to the research question, write one paragraph per topic, describing the topic, themes, periodization, and the kinds of primary/secondary sources you might use for the project.