

**21H.311**  
**FALL 2004**

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE LONG PAPER**

### **Requirements**

The long paper for this subject is due at the beginning of class on Monday, November 29. It must be computer-processed, it must be double-spaced, and it must be at least eight pages in length. You may submit the paper in hard copy or as an html document; if you choose the latter, I urge you to take advantage of the many possibilities, visual and otherwise, of this format.

You must submit a one-paragraph summary of your paper to me by Monday, November 15. The summary should indicate which of the options below you have chosen, and, when appropriate, specify the work you will read. I will comment on your summary and return it to you, but I will not grade it.

Have fun with this final essay/project! I encourage you to explore themes in the class that interest you in a creative fashion.

### **Possible Topics**

- Analyze a primary source from the Renaissance. Possibilities include literature, plays, essays, paintings, sculptures, or architecture of the period. You may wish to visit the Boston Museum of Fine Arts or the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, or return to the Fogg, to get some ideas. Do not hesitate to ask me for specific recommendations if you wish to work on a primary source but do not have a specific one in mind. Discuss the content and the style of the work, and place it within the context of themes we have discussed this semester.
- Read a secondary monograph on a topic of interest that you would like to explore in greater depth. For example, you may wish to read more about the life of a writer, artist, or political figure from the period. Or you may want to learn more about natural philosophy or magic during the Renaissance. Once you have read the monograph, write a paper in which you summarize the work's argument, then place it within the context of the themes we have discussed this semester. **DO NOT WRITE A BOOK REPORT!** To locate a secondary work, consult the suggestions for further reading in Rice and Grafton (203-7), or ask me for suggestions.
- For imaginative folks: write a short story in a Renaissance setting, either in hard copy or in hypertext. The story should, in some fashion, narrate or dramatize our course concerns this term. For an example, visit <http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21h/21h.418/philip/index.html>, then click on "Little Leadings"..
- I am willing to entertain other suggestions for final projects, as long as they are reasonably well related to our class material. You may also work in teams if you wish.