

Term Paper Guidelines

The final, complete version of your required term paper must be e-mailed to me by **4:00 PM, Tuesday, March 18th, 2025**. The penalty for late submission is one point per hour. You should submit your paper *in ONE file*, in **pdf format**. The filename must follow this format: Last name First name W 25. For example, Smith John W 25.

Topic

You may choose any topic that is related to the course. It can be an expansion of your short paper. It can be any topic that in one form or another is covered in class. Or, it can be a topic that is not covered in the course but is, in some fashion, related to Iran (or to the Persianate World). **Try to minimize overlap with what has been covered in class.** That is, your term paper should go well beyond what I cover in class, though it can be anchored in what we do in class.

Format

- The paper should be in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins all around, with **no right-justification**.
- You need to have a cover page indicating the title of your paper, your name, the course title and the submission date.
- The body of your paper should be 12 pages (+/- a maximum of 2 pages). You should put all ancillary material, such as the bibliography, graphs, charts, photos, and any appendices, on additional pages. The main body of the paper should consist of the following components:
 - Introduction. State your thesis question very clearly. Make sure to also discuss the significance of the question.
 - You need to acknowledge the work of others, and situate your work in previous research. Try to **weave the relevant literature throughout your paper**. The primary considerations are:
 - always make sure to give credit where credit is due, and
 - go with what works best as far as the flow of your analysis is concerned, and make sure that your analysis clearly addresses your central thesis.
 - Present evidence and reasoning in a logical and persuasive way.
 - You are completely entitled to your opinions. But this is **not** the place for them. Rather, this is a place for **evidence-based critical analysis**.
 - Conclusion. Succinctly present the salient conclusions you have reached and their significance.

It is quite acceptable (in fact, desirable) to organize the paper into sections with headings (and if needed, subsections with subheadings). This structure helps your readers navigate through the paper more easily.

- Make sure that all pages beyond the cover page are consecutively numbered at the top right of the page.
- Make sure that there is a one-to-one correspondence between the material you cite in the body of your paper and the bibliography. Your bibliography must be alphabetized by authors' last names.

Resources

Make sure to avail yourself of the following resources:

- **Library**
 - Ms. Lindsay Bush, our library liaison, is available at bushl@union.edu.
 - The handout that she provided for our course is available at: http://libguides.union.edu/rethinking_iran
- **Writing Center**
 - I strongly recommend that you talk to folks at the Writing Center. Their website is: <https://www.union.edu/writing-programs/about>
- **The Course's Website**
 - Check the course's site for additional resources: <https://minerva.union.edu/motahare/SRS200/FYI100.htm>
- **Other Resources**
 - There are a number of useful online guidelines regarding how to write a research paper. Here are three:
 - How to write a Research Paper: http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/How_to_Write_a_Research_Paper.htm
 - Guidelines for Writing Essays and Research Papers: <http://www.aresearchguide.com/1steps.html>
 - Writing a Research Paper https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

If you have any questions about any aspect of your term paper, please contact me at motahare@union.edu