

November 4, 2008

Memorandum

To: Political Economy of Punishment Class  
From: Prof. Glenn C. Loury  
Re: Final Paper Project

I thought it might be helpful to spell out some dates and expectations regarding your major second-half effort for this course, which is the final paper. I list these below:

1. The Project: Requirements and a Timetable

- a. A 10-12 page original research paper is required on some topic, mutually agreed between us, inspired by your reading and our discussion in the course. *All topics should be settled-upon by 11/13/08, at the latest.* I will extend office hours next week to accommodate meetings on your topics.
- b. A preliminary draft of the paper will be graded. *This draft is due by 5pm on Tuesday, 11/25.* (Electronic submission is OK). I will return your drafts with comments (by electronic means) by noon on Monday, 12/1.
- c. A final version of the paper is due by noon on Friday, 12/19/07 (last day of reading period).

2. What Should the 11/25 Draft Contain?

- a. The first draft can be a detailed outline of the paper, along with a brief narrative and a bibliography listing your source materials. (3 pages or so)
- b. The outline might include three main sections, with several bullet-points under each section. The first section might convey the main problem or issue to be investigated, along with some motivation of its importance. The second section might present elements of the paper's argument; and, the third section might sketch the paper's anticipated conclusions.
- c. The narrative accompanying this outline might contain 5 to 8 paragraphs of prose writing, expanding on the three sections of your outline. This could be organized as follows: an introductory and a concluding paragraph or two (that might actually be used in your paper), along with a few intervening paragraphs that contain a couple of sentences expanding on each of the bullet points mentioned in the outline.

**PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE GUIDELINES ARE ONLY MEANT TO BE SUGGESTIVE FOR YOUR DRAFT. FEEL FREE TO DEPART FROM THEM.**