

Final paper assignment

Choose one of the two paper topics below:

- 1) Choose either Foucault or Said. Assuming a position of sympathy with their political positions and objectives, subject their texts to critical but friendly examination. State briefly the conclusion(s) for which each author is arguing, as well as the major considerations each offers in favor of their conclusion. Knowing what you now know about the history of suspicious argumentation, would you present the same arguments as your author? What elements of their texts would you change, and why? Would these changes strengthen or weaken the case for their chosen conclusions?
- 2) Choose either Dubuisson or Fitzgerald. 1) State briefly the conclusion(s) for which each author is arguing, as well as the major considerations each offers in favor of their conclusion(s). 2) Point out any historical connections you see between your chosen authors and other figures we've read during the semester. 3) Critically evaluate your chosen author in light of our other readings: does knowing what you know about the tradition of suspicious argument make you more or less inclined to accept your chosen authors' conclusions? Why or why not?

Paper length: 12-15 pages

Due date: Tuesday, May 11, 5:00 PM

Turn in to: Chapin Hall, room 208 (my office; under the door if I am not in)

Guidelines: please number your pages; use 1" margins and a regular-size font; provide references to specific passages in the relevant texts and/or quotations. You may use a simplified form for references. If you are using an edition different from the one the class is using, please provide full bibliographical information at some point.

Notes:

1. Five College students may email their papers; others are expected to turn in hard copies.
2. Extensions beyond the last day of the semester (May 14) will require the approval of a class dean.