

The goal of the term paper is to give you the opportunity to learn more about an aspect of 19th-century France of **personal interest to you**. Your focus should be an area of social, economic, institutional or cultural life, or a significant event, for which there are adequate resources available in the PSU or other local libraries. For topics requiring specialized knowledge (e.g., musical knowledge for a project on French opera in the 19th century), you should choose it only if you already have that background.

Note: you must respect the chronological context of the course. That is, your topic should fall largely within the boundaries of 1789 to 1900.

Guidelines: your paper is to be **six** typed, double-spaced pages (1500 words). In addition, it will include a bibliography of your sources. You should follow **MLA format** for the paper. (A complete guide is available at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.) **If you want me to return your paper to you, you must attach a stamped self-addressed envelope to your paper at the time you submit it.**

Sources: you will need to gather your information from both **print** and **web-based** resources. You should not rely on a single source. Print resources will include book (or book chapters) and/or journal articles. (Note: you may find these materials on-line.)

How to start: find a general area of interest among the following suggestions (**or** propose another area you're interested in and get approval for it). Go to the library and speak to a reference librarian (2nd Floor) and ask how you can find resources on this topic and 19th-century France.

Agriculture in 19th-century France
 Arts, architecture (practice of these; an individual creator or work; an artistic movement)
 Business, trade union movement, etc.
 Children, family life
 Colonies: colonial society, trade
 Industry (development of the train system; steel industry; coal mining; textile mfg.)
 Medicine or public health
 Professions (e.g., medicine, law, teaching, banking, military service, engineering)
 Religion (the Church; status of Protestants or Jews in 19th cent. France)
 Schools and education
 Science: important French contributions, scientists
 Servants and domestic workers (training; role during Second Empire, in literary works)
 Significant individuals (e.g., Gustav Eiffel, Haussmann, Pasteur)
 Women in society (intellectual pursuits, writers/leaders, prostitution, education, work)
 Working class life, labor movement

Grading criteria: An A paper ...

- has a beginning, middle, and an end (not too long a conclusion)
- has a clear focus
- is analytical (not a simple summary of your sources or a description of the subject)
- is supported by evidence from your sources
- incorporates historical material from the course
- is clearly written (not too colloquial, not too academic)
- is formatted according to MLA guidelines

Submission:

- turn in a 1-paragraph description of proposed topic with a working title by **Thursday, May 23 or sooner**; communicate with me prior to that if you have questions or concerns about your topic
- turn in final printed version by **Friday, June 6th**, before 5:00 pm (NH491) (no e-mail submission)
- NOTE:** papers incorporating unattributed material from other sources (e.g., material plagiarized from the Internet, etc.) or written by someone other than yourself will receive a grade of "0" (zero) and may be reported to the Office of Student Affairs.