

TERM PROJECT PROPOSALS

Please limit your proposal to one typed page, with your names at the top. Proposals should contain the following information:

1. Proposed title of project.
2. Brief statement of the thesis.
3. Include a paragraph clearly summarizing the logic and proposed organization of your project.
4. In the same paragraph, try to explain what sources you plan to rely on, and how you chose them. We may be able to help you find interesting sources.
5. Include a second paragraph explaining how your proposed project is related to this course. (Be specific!)

Your proposals will be considered in light of the following criteria:

- A. Logical coherence.
- B. Originality.
- C. Clarity of your writing.
- D. Integration with the course.
- E. Appropriateness of the proposed sources (these are research projects, not just personal essays!)

Here are some examples of especially successful term projects from previous years:

The Chinese Cosmology of Ten Suns

The Serpent as a Cosmic Motif in History

“Where is the I in the Cosmic Uroboros?”

an original painting with a two-page explanation

Suggestions of new topics I'd like to see someone tackle:

Does the Evidence for the Big Bang Support the Idea that History Has a Direction?

The History and Meaning of the Uroboros Symbol

Ethical Implications of the Emerging Cosmology

How Cosmology and Culture Became Disconnected

Should Cosmology and Culture Be Reconnected?

Dangers v. Benefits

Implications of the New Cosmology for Environmental Protection

How Can the New Cosmology Be Communicated Effectively to Children?

Many potential projects might be very interesting in themselves, but they are not close enough to the subject matter of this class. Others are so huge and vague that they would lead you, and me, into inevitable frustration. The project is an opportunity to explore an interest arising from the class, but not an opportunity to explore a personal interest not arising from the class. For example, if you would like to explore the cosmology of a particular indigenous people, the paper must show how this understanding can help to illuminate some aspect of scientific cosmology, possibly by providing a key metaphor or approach.

Since the topic of Cosmology and Culture is so far largely unexplored, almost anything truly interesting that you say is likely to be original!

I am willing to try to help you refine the proposed topic or treatment, and suggest additional or alternative or especially interesting readings.

---- Joel Primack