

Significant Paper

In addition to timed examinations, all Ph.D. students will have to complete a significant paper requirement. The 'significant paper' is intended to be an opportunity for the student to test out possible dissertation topics or even to produce a portion of the dissertation. The topic should be chosen in discussion with the chair of the student's examination committee and the final paper will be read and examined by your committee. The student will also present their paper in an oral presentation to the department. A significant paper will normally display the following:

- deployment of lucid and persuasive argument in support of thesis
- ability to organize and interpret evidence
- knowledge of relevant critical issues
- application of relevant theory or methodology
- placement within larger scholarly discussion
- control of relevant primary and secondary sources
- independence of thought

It will normally be between 5000 and 8000 words in length