

Guidelines for In-Class Presentations

The purpose of the in-class presentations is to ensure that the students in the class guide and direct discussion. The professor is present to interject, but will remain largely silent during course presentations. Each presentation can take the form that the group decides. You might choose to lecture with questions for the class, lead applied discussion, engage in analysis of a relevant current event or piece of media, etc. Each presentation MUST:

1. Introduce the reading material for the day/week.
2. Provide supplemental information (such as biographical, geographic, etc.).
3. Inspire broader class participation and discussion.
4. Place the texts for the week in the broader context of the entire course (think about engaging texts/materials in dialogue with each other).

As you decide what form you would like your presentation to take, you might first refer to the reading guide in your syllabus. As a reminder, for each text, it is useful to think about:

1. Who is the author(s)? When was the reading published?
2. What is the research question or orienting theoretical puzzle guiding the piece?
3. What are the major themes throughout the author's analysis?
4. What is the overarching argument of the piece (for books, it might be useful to break this down by chapter)?
5. What theoretical framework does the author(s) use? Why? Which major literatures are they drawing on? What debates are they speaking to?
6. What methods does the author use? What is their data? Is this satisfactory to you as a reader?
7. What does the author find? Do they provide sufficient evidence?
8. Are you convinced by the author's claims? Why?
9. Does this reading speak to other readings in the course or in your personal research project?
10. How might you remedy the problems with the reading you identify? How would you rethink the argument/research process/etc?
11. What confuses you about the reading?
12. What is the most compelling argument or piece of the reading that you want to discuss with your classmates?

Presentations will be evaluated on clarity, creativity, and achievement of desired goals (i.e. does the presentation adequately provide an introductory overview of the course material for the week, place the material in context through supplemental material and relationship to other course material, and inspire class participation?).