

*Instructions for Paper 2*

**Assignment:** Discuss the relationship between physicists' contexts (intellectual, institutional, political, cultural) and the content of their research.

**Due date:** Session 15

**Length:** 6-7 double-spaced pages. You should use standard margins (1-inch to 1.25-inches on each side of the page) and a 12-point font.

**Grade:** Your grade on *Paper 2* will contribute 20% of your final course grade.

Do the contexts in which physicists work affect the research that they do? If so, how, in what ways, and to what extent? If not, why not? In analyzing this question, you should draw on material from both course readings and lectures. Several historians we have been reading (including Bruce Hunt, Russell McCormach, Gerald Holton, Peter Galison, Andrew Warwick, Loren Graham, David Cassidy, Paul Forman, and Alexi Assmus) have made the case that contexts shape the content of physicists' work. What are some common features of these authors' arguments? What are some differences between the cases of British, German, Russian, and American physicists that these historians have studied, and how have they affected the physics done in each case? Do you agree with these historians' analyses? How would you approach the issue? You definitely should *not* aim to engage with all of these authors or every one of the examples presented. Most important is to have a clearly articulated *thesis* or *argument*, which you defend with *specific examples* from the readings and lectures. (There is no single correct answer to these questions; what matters is how clearly you articulate your thesis, and how well you defend your thesis with examples and evidence.)

Use standard footnote conventions, giving full bibliographic information for all sources from which you draw, and include a bibliography at the end. Examples of appropriate footnote and bibliography formats appear in the hand-out, "Footnotes, Bibliographies, and the good Life," available in the assignments section. *Failure to use appropriate footnote and bibliography formatting will lower your grade.*

You are strongly encouraged to go over outlines and/or drafts before the due date. You will also have the opportunity to revise your paper following its first grading, to incorporate feedback and work on overall improvements. The first version is due in class on Ses 15. The revised version is due in class on Ses 20.

Your final grade for Paper 2 will be the average of these two grades.