

THE MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER

The **MRP** is the major research requirement for the MA degree. It may be done in conjunction with a formal course (by expanding on an essay done for that course) or may be done independent of any course. It is more than a research paper done for a regular course but less than an MA thesis. Your task is to select a focussed topic which will give you an opportunity to do an intensive, original piece of scholarly work. The suggested length is 50-75 pages. You may choose to divide the MRP into chapters or sections. You should consult with your supervisor on this issue. Like any good research essay, the **MRP** should contain an analysis of the scholarship on the topic you are dealing with, and an outline of the relationship of your work to that scholarship. It should also present the results of your research on the primary sources relating to your topic in the form of a sustained argument. An **MRP** should have the usual scholarly apparatus, footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography.