Presentation guidelines
Spring 2022

- Presentations are terse: they should take about 15–20 minutes.

- The object of your presentation is to lay out a problem for class discussion. I will use the class discussion as input to the grading. For class discussion to happen, you have to make it completely clear what the problem is, and put on the table everything the class needs in order to think and talk about it. (If you leave out something that you need, you can expect an awkward silence.)

- Use your problem as an inclusion and organization criterion. You have to pick out those elements in the reading that are needed to set up your problem. (For most presentations, there's far too much reading to present all of it.) Don't let the order of exposition in the reading determine the organization of your presentation: make the points you need (and only those), in the order required for your setup.

- Pay attention to the public speaking aspect of the presentation. Make sure to speak slowly and clearly, to make eye contact with your audience, and so on. (That's part of the grade as well.)

- Start preparing early. It works better if you've read and thought about the material for a while before you start in on outlining what you're going to do.

- The week before your presentation, schedule a premeeting with me. When you get to the meeting, I'll ask you two questions: 1) What question do you want the class to take up? and 2) How are you going to equip them to do that? So come prepared to answer both of those.