Assignments

This document contains information regarding the graded assignments for the course, including the project proposal, project draft, and the completed final project. For information on the weekly activities, see the discussion board in D2L.

Important Dates

- Project Proposal - due May 29th, 2022 at 11:59 PM
- Project Draft - due June 12th, 2022 at 11:59 PM
- Peer Evaluation - due June 19th, 2022 at 11:59 PM
- Final Project & Reflection - due June 30th, 2022 at 11:59 PM

Project Proposal (20%)

Description

For your final project, I am asking you to develop a website, multimedia poster presentation, or podcast around the theme of renaissance. You can focus on a specific period of renaissance that we've discussed in class or research a different one. The main goal is to demonstrate you understand the concept and convince your audience why renaissance periods are important in a variety of communities and contexts. You should base your area of inquiry on a research question and be able to develop a thesis statement and argument around your topic.

Requirements

Your project proposal should include:
- A 300-500 description of your topic. This should include the research question you are trying to answer and a tentative thesis statement. Identify your audience.
- A 300-500 word description of what your digital output will be and why that format is best suited to your project (you may want to refer back to the tutorials and readings on creating websites, multimedia posters, and podcasts from week one). Indicate if you have any prior experience with the medium you are choosing, and highlight any challenges you anticipate.
- An annotated bibliography of three scholarly resources on your topic. Each annotation should include at least a one sentence summary of the resource and a one sentence description of why it is important to your project.
- A timeline and work plan of at least 250 words describing how you intend to complete your project before the end of the semester. This can be formatted as a bulleted list

rather than paragraph form. Be realistic in your goals, and frame your timeline around the due dates for the draft and peer evaluation. If you're unsure of where to start, make sure you are prioritizing content over aesthetics.

Please submit these documents as a single file in the appropriate assignment on D2L.

Project Draft & Peer Evaluation (20%)

Description

The goal of the project draft is to make sure that you are on track to finish your final project by the end of the semester. **You will be asked to post the draft to the appropriate discussion board by 11:59 PM on June 12th**. Then, the following week, you will be asked to review two of your classmates' project drafts and provide them with written feedback in the comments of their post. I will list the pairings for evaluation in the forum instructions on the discussion board. You will have one week to review the two projects, and **you should post your evaluation by 11:59 PM on June 19th**. While your project does not need to be complete, the more complete the project is the more useful the feedback will be.

Requirements

Project Draft (10%)

Although your project is not required to be complete, your argument should still be clear and developed. At this stage, the priority is on content over the appearance or sound of your project. Even if not all components are complete, the wireframe for everything should still be in place. For instance, all website pages should be created even if only the information on the main page is complete. Multimedia posters should have a draft of your content, but the page layout may still be in process. Podcasts should have a rough recording of your spoken portion, even if it has yet been edited to the proper length and to include the intro/outro.

Peer Evaluation (10%)

In the comment section of the discussion post for the projects you've been assigned to review, provide a paragraph of detailed feedback for your peer. Your comments should be constructive with the goal of helping the project improve. Helpful feedback will focus on suggestions on where/how the argument might be made more clear and make notes on where construction of the digital object might be improved to make it easier to interact with from a first-time user/reader/listener perspective. You may also want to consider whether the project seems to fit the intended audience and how the medium might better serve the topic. At minimum, your response should include comments on at least two specific areas of the project (one thing you liked, one thing that you think might be improved before the final draft is due) along with your general impression of the project.

Final Project & Reflection (30%)

Description

Your final project will be either a podcast, website, or multimedia poster about the topic you proposed in your project proposal. The format you choose should be fueled by what works best with your content. Projects should demonstrate a well-researched response to your chosen topic that includes a developed thesis statement and an argument supported with scholarly evidence. **You will need to upload your final project and reflection to D2L by 11:59 PM on June 30th 2022**. No late submissions will be accepted. You can find examples of multimedia posters, project websites, and podcasts on the course D2L page.

Requirements

Digital Component (20%)

In the following sections, you will find examples of different elements your project should include depending on which format you picked. However, content is ultimately the most important element of the project–it should be well researched and clearly developed. I should be able to identify your thesis and your supporting points and the resources you are using to support your argument. Even if you check off everything on the list below, if you have weak content you will not receive a good grade.

Multimedia Poster

Multimedia posters can be constructed in the software of your choosing, but they must be dynamic. Your poster should include:

- 3-4 multimedia resources (images, videos, embedded links, etc).
- A clear and organized layout
- Animations, zooms, or other methods for making your poster dynamic
- Citations for the sources you use

Upload a copy of or link to your poster to D2L along with a five minute recording of you presenting your work. Be sure you have cited all of your sources, including any images or other media you used for your project.

Website

Websites should be constructed in WordPress or in Google Sites–both are free and available to you through MSU. Websites should include:

- A main page with the bulk of your information

- - Make sure your written content is clearly organized not just a single block of text like you're writing an essay
    - Include 3-4 multimedia resources (images, videos, etc.)
    - Divide the page up with appropriate headings
    - Make sure any citations are appropriately linked
  - An about page including information about you as the author and your intended audience for the project
  - A works cited page that includes all the sources you used for the project

Prioritize content over appearance. However, your website should have some formatting.

Share a link of your website to the D2L assignment page. Make sure your website includes all required elements, including an about page and a works cited page.

Podcast

Podcasts should be approximately ten minutes in length and include:

- A one minute introduction (introduce yourself, use music)
- A quick 30 second description of your topic & thesis
- A well-research description of your argument–the main body of your podcast can either be presented by you alone, or you can bring in some to "interview" or "co-host" with content you've provided
- A one minute conclusion that wraps up your argument (use music)
- Make sure you mention your sources!

Upload a copy or link to your podcast in the D2L assignment page. The final version should be fully edited. Please also upload a works cited page.

Reflection Paper (10%)

Regardless of the kind of digital project you submit, you are required to turn in a reflection paper of at least 800 words. In your response consider the following:

- How did working on this project change your understanding of the term renaissance?
- What were you able to do differently with a digital-based project that you couldn't do in a more traditional essay format?
- How did you relate what we covered in class to your own topic?
- What did you discover?
- What was surprising?
- How does the final version of your project reflect the feedback you received from your peer evaluations?
- What worked and what didn't when developing a digital project?
- Did you develop any new technical skills?

These prompts have been adapted from Ellen Moll's "Sample reflection papers for assignments."