

Final Project Assignment Sheet

Due Date (s):

- **Friday, December 4th, 9am:** blog post #9: short proposal and tentative works cited list
- **Thursday, December 10th:** 2-3 minute presentation in class
- **Friday, December 11th, 9am:** blog post #10: abstract of your final project
- **Wednesday, December 16th, 9pm:** Final projects sent as an attachment to jcmeloni@gmail.com or julie_meloni@wsu.edu
 - NOTE: Unlike previous assignments, there is no leeway in the final project due date. Note 9 **pm** for this, though, not 9 **am**.

Introduction:

The goal of any final project is to demonstrate mastery of the subject you've been studying all semester. In this class, given the work on your blogs, essays, and in class, I have a very good idea of each of your levels of engagement with the material and your grasp on the fundamental themes throughout the class. In this project, you have the opportunity to demonstrate your mastery in one of two ways: a creative project or a traditional piece of literary analysis.

With either the creative project or the traditional literary analysis you must engage with some mixture of the topics of colonialism, postcolonialism, and globalization, and you must refer in some way to at least a few of the texts that we have read (you will easily be able to do this in support of whatever argument you are making). Of most importance, you **must make an original argument** with your work. Yes, even creative projects have arguments. I would argue (ha) that if you are not sure how a creative project can make an argument, you might consider not doing a creative project; creative projects in this case are available for students who have had some training in visual rhetoric, multimedia, or fine arts, because to some extent you will be graded on those qualities as well.

Instructions:

There are several parts to the final project, and each will form some part of your final project grade. In other words, don't skip them. Not only are they important in that they allow for feedback from me, but they do (like everything in this class) count for points. Following are some general steps for everyone, regardless of project type:

- **Step 1:** Figure out what you want to do, and begin research. Even if you are doing a creative project, you will have some research to do. Just what that research is will depend on your topic and the approach you are taking.
- **Step 2:** blog post #9, the short proposal and tentative works cited list. Really, what I want is a short proposal and partially annotated bibliography. By that I mean:
 - For the proposal, write a paragraph or two that describes exactly what you plan to do, what you plan to argue, and how (in general) you plan to support your argument. Also, indicate *why* you want to do the project that you propose.
 - For the tentative works cited list, first find at least five **scholarly sources** that might aid you in your research and/or support your argument. If you do not know if your source is scholarly or not, ask me.
 - Annotate at least three of your works. An annotated bibliography entry follows this format:

[correct citation for your source]

[sentences of summary, assessment, and reflection regarding the source and its place in your work]

for example:

Greenblatt, Stephen. *Renaissance Self-Fashioning: From More to Shakespeare*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1984.

Greenblatt's central thesis, which focuses on the development of the individual in Renaissance Europe, is particularly useful support for my argument regarding the prioritization of identity in that period.

Greenblatt's chapter on Thomas More was especially helpful in my discussion of *Utopia* and its reception in sixteenth-century England.

Instructions (continued)

- **Step 3:** Work on your project! Ask questions of me along the way. As always, I am also available to look at drafts, provided they come early in the process and not a few days before the project is due.
- **Step 4:** Figure out how you are going to talk to the class about your project during the 2-3 minute presentation on December 10th. Given that these are 2-3 minute presentations, there will be no multimedia or other props—your presentation will consist of you, standing in the front of the room, simply talking about what you are doing, what you are arguing, and how you are supporting that argument. Expect to be asked a question either by the audience or myself, and be prepared to answer it. Note that your project will likely not be finished at this point, and that is fine. The presentation is assumed to discuss a work in progress.
- **Step 5:** blog post #10, the project abstract. An abstract is simply a short descriptive summary of a longer work, written after the work is completed (or in this case, pretty darn close to being complete). Abstracts are kept to approximately 10% of the length of the original work. In this case, everyone should simply shoot for a 250 word abstract of your project. Writing the abstract while your project is almost but not yet complete will give myself and others in the class the chance to comment on your abstract before the project is complete, hopefully in support of a better final product.
- **Step 6:** Turn in the final project to me. If it is a tangible art project, use high-resolution photographs or scans of the objects to accompany your artist's statement. If it is a digital project, either send me the file or upload it to a publicly-accessible web space and send me the URL to accompany your artist's statement. If it is a traditional essay, just send it to me as an attachment as usual.

Mechanical Details:

- **Creative projects** should include a lengthy (~1500 words) artist's statement. Artist's statements should contextualize and explain the creative work you have produced. Also, include your bibliography at the end of it.
- **Traditional papers** should be in the 6-10 page range, and above all should be an analysis supporting an original argument. Your paper should be in MLA format, from layout to in-text citations and the works cited page.