

FINAL PROJECT

Since we have been discussing various media forms of TechnoLiterature, you have wide latitude for your final project. The project will be delivered in three phases: The proposal will deliver your initial thoughts on the topic and argument; the final draft represents a full, complete argument that uses evidence effectively and discusses both the content and structural details from primary texts; and the class presentation allows you to share your project with your classmates.

You may choose one of the following types of projects to work on. In your Proposal, you must identify your project type and then stick to it (no changing at the 11th hour).

- A. **Traditional Essay:** With this option, the project must use more than one primary source. (1500 words)

- B. **Creative Writing:** With this option, you may write a creative piece, but you will also have to provide a Rationale (1000 words) analyzing your uses of various themes of TechnoLiterature and using the literary terms we've defined. (See me about this option and the Rationale.)

- C. **Web Project:** With this option, create a Website that's innovative; do not simply write an essay and slap it into HTML. To successfully use the medium, create an innovative site that expresses the TechnoLiterature themes traditions that we've been discussing. (I don't recommend picking this one if you don't already have HTML experience.) At the end, write a 1000-word Rationale not only about various themes of TechnoLiterature, but also the design decisions. (See me about this option and the Rationale.)

- D. **Film Project:** With this option, you may create a film that reflects our discussions on TechnoLiterature. Pick this option only if you have experience with the medium already. A 1000-word Rationale is due on the final day. (See me about this option and the Rationale.)

- E. **Open:** What do you have? Come discuss it with me.

Proposal: Due 4/27, by 9am, 300-500 words

A proposal is the presentation of an idea that you wish to pursue. A good proposal presumes that you have already thought about your project and have devoted some time and effort in gathering information, reading, and then organizing your thoughts. A proposal is NOT a project to be thrown together in one night with ideas off the top of your head. Thus, one might say that the proposal is a second step, following the selection of a broad topic.

The actual proposal will indicate what analytical question you wish to address. The foundation of a good essay is a good question. Just as a tree needs a good root system to grow to be strong, a good essay needs a good analytical question. What does "analytical" mean? An analytical question can take different forms and no one form is necessarily better than others. What all analytical questions have in common is the fact that they are not merely descriptive. That is, an analytical question moves beyond the "what" and explores the "how," and the "why." A good analytical essay will use "the what" as part of the answer to "the why." But it is obligatory to address a question beyond the "what." For example, a descriptive paper would ask: "What was Gorbachev's economic perestroika policies?" An analytical paper would ask: "Why did Gorbachev's economic perestroika policies fail?" As part of the paper, you would then review what the policies were, but then you would go beyond that description.

Email your proposal by the due date. No grade will be issued for the proposal; however, if you do not turn in a proposal *on time*, for each day that it is late, you will lose a grade step on the final essay grade. If you do not submit a proposal, you may not submit a final essay/project.

Final Draft/Project: Due 5/13

All essays and project rationales must be submitted on paper and in person at the beginning of our final class meeting day without exception. In addition, submit your writing to Turnitin prior to this day.

Presentation: Due 5/13

On the final class day, each person will use 5 minutes to present his/her topic to the class. Failure to present will result in a failing grade on the entire project.

TOPIC CHOICES

We've covered many topics over the course of the semester, and many of you have expressed interest in unique topics. Remember that you must come up with some sort of comparative argument that can be explored in your project. To simply pick "femininity" is not enough. What is it about this topic that you'd like to explore? What texts will you use? (Avoid relying solely on lectures and class discussion to provide your insight into the texts.)

FORMAT

All assignments need to be typed in 12pt font, double-spaced with one inch margins. Use the MLA style for in-text citations (parenthetical citation) and the MLA format for your Works Cited. Other requirements are listed below:

- Your name, the date, the course and section number should be typed at the top left-hand corner.
- Your name and the page number should be typed in the upper right corner of every page following the first page.
- Staple the pages together. (Do not fold or paperclip your pages.)
- Proofread everything before you turn it in. There should be no spelling or typographical errors.

Writing About Literature

For help with constructing your essay, narrowing your topic or doing research, see the following sites:

Writing About Literature: <http://www.wwnorton.com/litweb/writing/welcome.asp>

Writing a Literature Paper: <http://www.umd.umich.edu/casl/hum/eng/jonsmith/writing.html>