WGS 1001
Spring 2020
Prof. Shaw
Final Project Details and Due Dates

Final Project Guidelines

For your final project you will create a page for a class "zine" that we will make together and publish online. Options are below, but know that no matter what you choose, your final project must fit onto a page that is the size of a sheet of letter paper—8.5 x 11 inches. (The size of a word document, for example). You will upload your final project page by May 20. I will then create and distribute the zine afterward. Each project will require a statement/reflection about the project explaining what it is.

Everyone will do the same amount of research (see steps below), but what you create for your final project

Options:
1. Proposal: An intervention or offering
   Based on your research and area of interest, identify a particular problem. What is it? How does it relate to WGS, who does it impact, and how? Propose an intervention to bring more attention to the cause, or a solution that would improve the lives of those affected. What is it? How would it help or raise awareness? What would it look like? How would you make it happen (duration, funding, location, staff, maintenance, etc.)? You may assume either realistic resources or unlimited resources for your project.
2. Syllabus for a 3 week mini-course on WGS topic of your choosing
   Create a mini-syllabus (that includes a course outline and description) for a three week course. What is it about? What will you ask your students to read? Why? Each week should have a week's worth of reading (you be the judge of exactly how much, but I think 30-50 pages per week is pretty normal, less if it is academic writing), and should cover three different aspects of your topic. In your description, you should justify the subject and its importance, and for each week justify your readings (why this one and not others? What makes it a good choice for you and your students time and energies?), and have an assignment for each week. In sum, you should have a course description, and three weeks' worth of reading and assignments, and a rationale for each choice you made (both readings and assignments—why are they a good fit for the course? What makes them a good way for your students to engage with your subject matter?).
3. Creative project—make me something
   For this project, you should make something visual and creative (NOT a poster, but something crafty or creative) that is in dialogue with an issue, theme, or particular issue/reading that you have encountered as part of this class. Any creative/made project should be accompanied by a 500 word artist statement that explains what artworks or artists you were reacting to and how your choices, formal, material, and compositional, relate to your research topic.

Important Due Dates and Deadlines

1. April 22: What do you need to know? What do you need to know about in order to contextualize and discuss your subject? Meaning, what academic subjects does your project relate to? Through research at the library and on the web, identify the different facets of your project, including whether it concerns contemporary news/events, race, gender, sexuality, history, important countries (the US, India, China, etc.), social status/class, media (which media? film, broadcast tv, streaming shows, social media) and any other salient factors.
How does each factor relate to your project and what will you need to know in order to discuss it successfully?

2. April 29: Craft a statement that identifies how these works illustrate something about your topic. This is your provisional thesis statement or argument. You should say *something* about the issues and background.

3. May 6: Compile a bibliography of at least 3 online sources (newspaper articles, blog posts, etc.) plus two articles (scholarly journal, book chapter, etc.) that relate to your topic. DO NOT USE RANDOM INTERNET SITES. Please be sure to use reputable sites whose sources can be identified and traced, and it should have an author. FOR EACH SOURCE, YOU MUST EXPLAIN WHY IT IS RELIABLE AND CREDIBLE BY ACADEMIC STANDARDS.

4. May 13: Now that you have a bibliography, describe each source—what is it about—and how does it relate to your topic? What does it offer your project? How is it useful?
This is an annotated bibliography and should be posted by Wednesday, May 13.

5. May 20: Final Projects Due.

REMINDER: FAILURE TO COMPLETE A FINAL ASSIGNMENT WILL RESULT IN NO CREDIT FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.