IDS-190 The art of IDEAS: More Than Meets the Eye
Final Project Description, Fall 2016

Introduction
In this course, we explore a variety of academic disciplines while encountering a range of perspectives and viewpoints. By demonstrating the power of synthesis—how new ideas come from multi-disciplinary approaches—our goal is to inspire you to be curious about situations in which there is more than meets the eye, and to empower you to take the reigns on your own intellectual development by conducting an original research project in collaboration with 3-4 other students.

Overview
Students will be divided into groups of 3-4. Each group will be responsible for selecting and researching a topic of collective interest in which there is "more than meets the eye." Each group will work primarily with one of the teacher-scholars for direction and advice, though groups should feel free to consult with other teacher-scholars depending on their availability. Each student will be responsible for exploring a unique component of the group’s chosen topic, or offering a unique perspective about it, and for producing a 4-5 page written report. These written reports must incorporate at least four scholarly resources pertinent to the chosen topic. Additionally, each group will be responsible for a collective presentation to the class during the final exam period. This final presentation should incorporate aspects from each student’s report in a synthetic fashion. Think of the final presentation as a way to educate your peers about the topic, integrating the perspectives each group member has taken. On the day of the group presentation, each student will submit a 1-page paper explaining their contributions to the presentation.

Assignments in Brief
a. Individual Written Report: 100 points
b. Group Presentation: 100 points
c. Self-report and reflection: 50 points
d. Benchmarking Assignments: 150 points (6 assignments)

Individual Written Report Details (100 points) - due 12/6/16
Individual written reports will be between 4-5 pages, double-spaced, in a standard 12 point font (e.g. Times New Roman, Calibri). The goal is to explain your particular findings/interpretations/conclusions about the chosen topic of collective interest. Individual written reports must make use of at least four scholarly sources pertinent to the topic. These four sources could include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: journal articles, books, surveys, interviews, or case studies. Individual written reports will be evaluated for the following:
- Clarity of thought and expression in describing your unique piece of the group’s topic of interest
- Critical use of at least four sources pertaining to the topic

Group Presentation Details (100 points) - due 12/12/16
As a culmination to the project, each group will offer a creative presentation to the class integrating each of the individual reports on their topic. Presentations should be no more than twenty minutes and there will be five minutes for questions. Presentations may not take the form of a PowerPoint-based talk. Instead, think creatively! For example, the presentation could take on one of the following forms: an educational poster campaign, Daily Show style newscast, website, newspaper style article for the Emory Wheel, or podcast. Creativity is encouraged and you are not bound to any of these forms.

Self-report and Reflection Details (50 points) - due 12/12
In no more than one page, include:
1. A brief description of what and how you and your other team members contributed to the final presentation.
2. A brief response to the final presentation.
3. Assessment each member’s contributions to the group (evaluation form will be provided at a later date)
Benchmarking Assignment Details (150 points total) - due dates specified below

Assignment 1: Personal interest survey (10 points)
Due Tues 8/30
Description: A hard copy of the personal interest survey will be given to you on 8/25. Fill it out and bring with you on Tues 8/30.

Assignment 2: Clarify topic of interest ways of gathering evidence about it (20 points)
Due Thurs 9/15
Description: In a ten-minute presentation to the class, discuss what your group’s prospective topic will be and the perspective each group member intends to pursue.

Assignment 3: Critical summary of four sources of evidence (30 points)
Due Tues 10/4
Description: Identify each of the four distinct pieces of evidence that relate to your take on the group's topic of interest. These may include (but are not necessarily limited to): journal articles, surveys, interviews, case studies, etc. For each piece of evidence, offer a one paragraph critical summary. If one of your pieces of evidence is a survey and you have not yet administered it, include the completed questionnaire and your timeline for data collection. After submitting these initial summaries, students may incorporate additional pieces of evidence to complete their final project.

Assignment 4: Outline of report that demonstrates use of four sources of evidence (30 points)
Due Tues 10/25
Description: In approximately one page, prepare an outline of how you intend to use your four sources to construct an argument about the group’s topic of interest. In class, you will review the outlines of your group members and offer comments/suggestions.

Assignment 5: Hard copies of individual reports due to group members (30 points)
Due Thurs 11/10
Description: For additional details about the individual reports, see above. It is expected that this will be a well-developed and polished draft. Bring a hard copy of your report for each of your group members.

Assignment 6: Peer review of written reports; begin planning final presentation (30 points)
Due Tues 11/15
Description: Read and comment upon each other’s individual reports. Bring drafts with your comments to exchange with each other. In class, you will discuss ideas for synthesizing your individual reports in a creative final presentation.

Individual Written Report due 12/6 @ 1pm (late assignments will not be accepted!)
Group presentations & Self-report and Reflections due Mon 12/12 @ 3-5:30pm