Spring 2012

Final Project

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Native Americans in the American Imagination
First-Year Seminar, Spring 2012
Final Project

Description: The aim of this final project is to use the critical thinking and research skills that you have developed this semester in this first-year seminar in order to create a multimedia presentation and project that reflects a topic of interest that you have chosen that addresses one of the ways that Native peoples are "imagined" in American society. You can choose from the following themes: in movies (you must use movies that we did not see this semester), in literature, in advertising, the arts, or as sports mascots. Within this larger theme you want to narrow down your specific topic to say: the Florida State Seminoles if you are looking at mascots, or at the issue of white actors playing Native peoples in "brownface" in movies, or the use of the Land O Lakes maiden in advertising butter (those are three possible examples.)

You then will embark on library research, (you will need academic articles and/or books to help you sort out your critique) and your own "on the ground research" (popular newspaper and magazine articles, blogs, websites (not Wikipedia) and images in order to bring together your own critique of this particular topic. Then you will put together a multi-media presentation of your critiques and ideas on this particular topic. You will first meet with me for approval of the idea, and will be required to turn in an outline/bibliography, and then will meet with Jeremy Donald in the library to work out how you will put together your media presentation. Your media presentation will, depending on the topic you choose, be put together using Imovie, Google sites, or Prezi, depending upon which platform best suits your needs. Note that this **will not** be a Powerpoint presentation—part of the point of this final project is for you to learn to use a new type of technology. Within the media you will integrate in-text citation to link to your sources (Jeremy will show you how to do this) as well as have an annotated Bibliography at the end of the presentation.

In your presentation, (which will be on the day of the final exam- presentations are a stand-in for the final) you will show off your nifty media presentation to the class and also explain how you put it together, and why you chose to put it together in the way that you did, along with your critical observations on your topic.

The entire project is worth 30 % of your final grade.

Grading Breakdown:

5% Idea outline and Bibliography
5 % Presentation
20% The Project (including the annotated Bibliography.)

You will be graded not only on your ideas, critique, and creativity but 20 % of your project grade will also focus on production values—did you utilize the technology in the best way possible?

Tentative schedule

March 5th Outline of what you want to do/Tentative Bibliography based on library research due
March 7th-23 Meet with Jeremy Donald in the Library for the first time to figure out what media you are using and how to use it. (Note: you want to start early on this as you will be learning how to use new technology and it might be slow going initially
This gives you the month of April to work on the project. I suggest you use it.)
May 4th- Presentation day and projects are due.

Also note that you will have to write a short reflective essay on how you tried to meet the information literacy goals set out for this project (we will discuss the goals in-depth in class). That essay is due at the same time as the final project and will count as 5% of your overall grade.