**Final Project**

**Multimedia Narrative of American History from 1865 to the Present**

The syllabus for any literature survey is an attempt to tell a story. In creating a reading list, the instructor is compelled to decide what matters, how stuff relates to other stuff, and how it all fits into a broader literary-historical framework. This course will inevitably tell a particular kind of story. The themes and motifs of that story will include coping with loss, moments of cultural crisis, religion and spirituality, and both enchantment and disillusionment with the very idea of "America."

If you were to tell this story, it would no doubt look rather different. And, in fact, I am giving you that opportunity. Using the interactive timeline/course map as a kind of model (no, you shouldn't do exactly what I did), you will produce your own visual (and aural, if you like) representation of the course material. You will decide what texts, themes, and relationships (chronological, geographical, stylistic, etc.) you want to emphasize. The medium for this narrative is open, though you will be asked to explain your choice. You can use presentation software (Power Point, Keynote, Prezi), create a video, a visual mind map, a website, etc. The best projects will incorporate a wide variety of texts and authors and show relationships working through multiple dimensions.

**Submission and Assessment:**

**By November 12,** you must submit a two-page (500-600 word) **precis** that describes your intended approach. You should briefly explain the medium you will use and the narrative trajectory you will be tracing. The precis is not a contract. You are free to deviate from it somewhat as the project progresses. There are two grades for the precis: Approved and Not Approved. You may resubmit a "Not Approved" precis by November 20. An Approved precis is worth 10 out of 100 points on your final project grade.

**By December 7**, you must submit your final project on the class website **with a finalized version of your precis that accounts for any deviations from your initially approved plan**. By that point, you will be assigned three classmates to evaluate. During exam week, you will view their project and fill out an evaluation form for each classmate.

**By December 14**, you must submit the evaluation forms for each of your assigned classmates **to me** via email. Your evaluation will remain confidential, though I may reference your feedback in my set of comments to the student. Completing the evaluation forms (all three) is worth 10 out of 100 points on your final project grade (an exception will be granted if your assigned partner does not submit their project on time).

**Criteria for...**

**C—**Makes a solid attempt to fulfill the requirements of the assignment. Incorporates at least 10 authors. Tells a coherent story that shows the relationships between these authors in one dimension (linear). Is easy to follow/use and contains minimal factual errors.

**B—**Makes an above average attempt to fulfill the requirements of the assignment. Incorporates at least 12 authors. Tells a coherent story that shows the relationships between those authors in at least two dimensions. Shows an effort to be original. Makes excellent and/or innovative use of the chosen medium. Contains no factual errors.

**A**—Makes a well above average attempt to fulfill the requirements of the assignment. Incorporates at least 15 authors. Tells a coherent story that shows multi-dimensional (at least 3) relationships between those authors. Makes a strong claim to originality (there are no other projects quite like it) and uses the chosen medium to near-maximum potential. Contains no factual errors and is a delight to use/look at/read.