

Assignments, Projects and Evaluation

Assignments

A. Weekly reading response

This assignment is meant to be a regular reading journal, which you hand in each Saturday. Each week, you should bring to class a half-page response to the material we will be discussing that week. You may respond to any element of the reading you choose such as

- a compelling statement
- a catching image
- the organization of the text itself
- an idea you agree or disagree with

The purpose of this exercise is to ensure you have

- read and thought about the material we will be discussing each week
- prepared some ideas you may wish to discuss with the class

These response papers will not be graded.

B. Mid-Term Project Plan

By Saturday, November 5, you will have prepared a plan for the project you wish to work on for your final class project. This one-page project plan should include a

- description of your project - make sure the project is small enough that you can actually do it before the class ends
- statement of the purpose of the project - why you want to do this project
- description of your method for the project - how you will go about creating the project

- list of materials or supports you may need to carry out the project - everything from library information to access to a computer or a camera or drawing pencils

Professor Coleman will provide written responses on the project plans so that we can anticipate problems or challenges together. There will be no response paper this week, since the mid-term project plan will replace the usual response paper.

C. Final Project

On our last class, Saturday, December 3, you will bring your final projects and present them to the class. This project is meant to be your way of giving voice to the part of Hamilton that appeals to you.

You may work individually or in groups. You will be given ideas for how to focus your project through the

- texts we study in class
- visitors who come to class to talk about how they produced projects about Hamilton
- help of the student support team that gathers on Saturday afternoon

Your projects could include

- writing
- creating a photo series
- creating a map
- making a series of drawings
- any of the above could be about a city street or neighbourhood and its history

Here are some ways of extending the ideas above. Your projects could involve

- writing or creating a blog site or e-zine (online magazine)

- making a video about the kind of work that defines a neighbourhood, or about the architecture in a certain part of the city
- creating a story using photographs or video, writing or drawings about people who exemplify something unique about Hamilton
- creating a fabric hanging or a graphic (cartoon-style) story about the history of a street, park, natural area, or a neighbourhood
- creating a collage of materials from an archival collection about a person, historical event, community, or organization
- writing a research paper, creating a video, drawing a map based on interviews with people

Evaluation

This course will not be graded. Daniel Coleman will provide written responses to your final project, offering comments and suggestions for further development. Handing in the weekly response statements, regular participation, mid-term project proposal, and final project on time will qualify you to complete the McMaster Discovery Program.