

**CRITICAL RESEARCH,
LITERATURE ANALYSIS, &
Grounding in The Liberal Arts**

MJD Senior Seminar Projects

TOPICS

- **PEACE TECHNOLOGY (Sarah/Grace)**
- **TRUCKING (Tomas)**
- **ANIMAL RESCUE/REHAB (Jackson, Addy, Ethan)**
- **DESIGNER CATS & GENETIC MODS (Miranda)**
- **AGING-BEAUTY INDUSTRIES (Haleigh)**
- **WHITE COLLAR CRIME – SILICON VALLEY (Kit)**
- **ENV IMPACT OF LIVE MUSIC/FESTIVALS (Bella)**
- **PRIMARY SCHOOLS-AGE-8-AROUND THE WORLD (Megan-Elly)**
- **SPORTS TECHNOLOGY & COACHING (Mike)**
- **NATURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY - RELATIONSHIPS (Eli)**
- **RE-DEFINING RETIREMENT (Laura)**

Timeline for October

MJD Senior Sem Research Seminar

1. Schedule and MEET with Reference Librarian!

- ▶ Schedule an appt. here:
<https://lib.smcvt.edu/reference-instruction/research-appointments>
- ▶ Provide them with a 3-4 sentence synopsis
- ▶ + A Brief background for the research that you have already conducted!

2. Wed., Oct 13th Summary of Reference Librarian Meeting and FINDINGS

3. WED., Oct 27th : CRITICAL LITERATURE REVIEW IS DUE!

The screenshot shows the Saint Michael's College library website. The header includes the college logo and navigation links: Durick Library, Find, Research, Services/Policies, About, Get Help, Hours, and Info For... Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: / Durick Library / Reference & Instruction / Research Appointments. The main content area is titled 'Reference & Instruction' and features a sidebar with a menu: Reference, Instruction, Information Literacy, Get Research Help, Research Appointments (highlighted), Library Liaisons by Subject, and Study Abroad. The main content area is titled 'Schedule a Research Appointment' and includes a 'Select a Librarian:' section with five profile pictures. Below the pictures are the names and specialties of the librarians: Anthony Bassignani (Biology, Chemistry, English & Literature, Environmental Studies & Sciences, French, Geography, Health Science, Music, Spanish, and Theatre), Laura Crain (Applied Linguistics & MATESOL, Gender Studies, Global Studies, and Peace & Justice), Kristen Hindes (Anthropology, Business & Accounting, Criminology, Education, Media Studies, Journalism & Digital Arts, Neuroscience, Political Science, Psychology, Public Health, and Sociology), Stacey Knight (American Studies, Computer Science, Data Science, History, Mathematics & Statistics, and Medieval Studies), and Elizabeth Scott (Art, Economics, Latin, Philosophy, Physics, and Religious Studies). The footer includes 'Saint Michael's College | Durick Library | mySMC' and 'One Winooski Park, Colchester Vermont, USA 05430'.

GUIDELINES: CRITICAL LITERATURE REVIEW/ANALYSIS

RESEARCH: Critical & Comparative Literature Review

MJDA Senior Seminar, Profs. J. Hyde & K. Sultze

Paper Due: 1:30pm, Wednesday, October 27th

This assignment has several important **RESEARCH** sections. The research you do here provides a fundamental backdrop for your senior seminar project.

☑ **Meeting with a Reference Librarian.** In the next day, go online to schedule a meeting with a reference librarian to seek her/his advice on background research for your topic. Schedule the meeting within the next week – so, at least by Wednesday, October 13. You will turn in a copy of the meeting confirmation and a written summary of the meeting (at least two explanatory paragraphs) to us via email by the end of the day on Wednesday, October 13. Visit this page to schedule a meeting online: <https://lib.smcvt.edu/reference-instruction/research-appointments>

☑ **Develop an initial research bibliography which includes no less than four books (single author, not edited collections) and seven academic journal articles or book chapters (from an edited collection).** These books and journal articles are the foundational resources you need to locate, read, and analyze. This is the minimum; more is even better. Get started on locating these **ASAP**. The books you will be either purchasing, borrowing from the library, or interlibrary loaning, so you'll need to build in the time it takes for that to happen. Important note: These should all be quality resources. If it's a weak resource, or if it's only tangentially related to your topic, don't include it. Find a better resource.

☑ **Critical Literature Review Paper.** What's due on Wednesday, October 27th is a **timeline, a bibliography, and a 9-11 page, 12pt font, 1.5-spaced** paper that has the following five sections explained below. If you exceed 11 pages of written analysis, that's okay.

ANNOTATED Descriptive Timeline: 20 Key Historical Events:

Research and review **key historical events from the last 50 years** related to your topic. Then, create a descriptive **annotated timeline** for the most important events in this approximate time frame. At a minimum, your timeline should include dates and annotations for at least 20 events. The annotations should be 2-4 explanatory sentences for each date/event. Include citations for each entry. The timeline is not included in your page count for the Critical Literature Review.

Section #1: Important Terms, Concepts, Processes, and Organizations:

What are the important terms and concepts connected to your topic and subject matter? These should be specific to the area or field you are researching, and sometimes will include behind-the-scenes terminology or 'jargon' that is discipline- or industry-specific. **What are the important process, cycles, or operations connected to your topic? Who are the important or central organizations connected to your area?** These can be presented as a list of terms/concepts with definitions, and a list of processes and organizations with the written explanations immediately following. For each, you should provide a citation for the source or sources you consulted. The definitions and explanations should, of course, be your own writing and based on your own analysis.

Historical Perspectives → TIMELINE

1. LONG-TERM TRENDS-Movements?

- How is the topic/subject part of a longer trend or set of patterns over time (decades, centuries,...)?

2. LANDMARK EVENTS?

- What landmark events or transitions are part of the larger “stories” related to the topic/issue?

3. CENTRAL FIGURES?

- Who are the central figures associated with the evolution of the topic/issue?

4. Paradigm Shifts?

- New/different ways of thinking or approaching?

IMPORTANT TERMS, CONCEPTS, PROCESSES and ORGANIZATIONS?

1. WHAT are the important and/or central TERMS or CONCEPTS?
 - A. **SPECIFIC** to the field or area you are researching
 - B. **TECHNICAL** or Semi-technical terms or definitions
 - C. **NEW** terms or concepts
 - D. Behind the scenes--“in-house” or important “jargon”
2. Important **PROCESSES** or **OPERATIONS** ?
3. Important/Central **ORGANIZATIONS** or **PEOPLE** NOW?

2 RELEVANT LIBERAL ARTS PERSPECTIVES

- **Anthropological-Socio-Cultural** (REQUIRED)
And (+ one of the following...)
- **Political-Economic**
- **Psychological**
- **Philosophical**
- **Scientific/Technical/Medical**

Anthropological-Socio-Cultural Perspectives

HOW do each of the following play an important role in my topic?

- PATTERNS of HUMAN BEHAVIOR** and/or HUMAN INTERACTIONS that surround this topic?
 - ▶ Individual patterns—"norms" vs. "fringe"
 - ▶ Mass/Mainstream—(local, regional, national, global)
- CULTURAL POWER? Symbols? What's Cool/Hip/Important? Status?**
 - ▶ Who wields it? What are the "rites of passage" and who decides?
- RACE?**
 - How are issues of RACE directly and indirectly related to my topic?
 - Asian, African American, Hispanic, etc.
- GENDER?**
 - How are issues of GENDER directly and indirectly related to my topic?
- AGE?**
 - How are issues of AGE directly and indirectly related to my topic?
 - Children→Tweens; 25-49; 49-70; 70+
- CROSS-CULTURAL Comparisons?**
 - ▶ How are the issues of my topic dealt with in other cultures or other regions of the world? **China? India? Japan? UAE? Nigeria? France? Germany? Turkey?**
- INCOME?**
 - ▶ How are issues of INCOME, ECONOMIC, or SOCIAL STATUS directly and indirectly related to my topic?

Political-Economic Perspectives

1. POWER !?

- Who has POLITICAL-ECONOMIC power?
- and PROFIT\$?
- How is that power wielded?
- How does the money flow, and how does that shape the process/product?

2. DECISION-MAKING and PRIORITY AGENDA SETTING?

- How does decision-making occur? How many people or groups are involved in the process? Equitable representation?
- What is at stake with such decisions?

3. POLARIZING POLITICS?

- Has the issue been politicized in traditional bi-polar political ways? How so?

4. GOVERNMENTAL/LEGAL INVOLVEMENT?

- What are the government policies, rulings, legal precedents?

5. NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVOLVEMENT?

- What citizens, consumers, corporations, non-government agencies, nonprofit organizations, policies, practices are involved?

Psychological Perspectives

HOW do each of the following play an important role in my topic?

1. IDENTITY and PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

- What factors shape individual's behavior, thinking, or feeling related to the topic?
- Thought, thinking, and emotions?
- What factors shape individual's perceptual filters related to the topic

2. NORMATIVE? “normal” vs. “abnormal”

- What's considered “normal” or “abnormal” and what are the assumptions and/or problems associated with those categories?

3. INSTINCTUAL vs. LEARNED vs. CONDITIONED behaviors?

- What are the instinctual vs. learned or conditioned behaviors?

4. RATS & SOPHS? (Laboratory Environments vs. Reality)

- When you have white rats or college sophomores connected to electrodes in a laboratory environment, how do they behave (related) to the topic?

Philosophical Perspectives

HOW do each of the following play an important role in my topic?

1. HUMAN THOUGHT

- > How has human thinking about this topic changed over time?
- > **Epistemological** How do we know what we know about this topic?

2. LANGUAGE?

- > How does the language we use to discuss this topic shape our understandings of it?

3. ASSUMPTIONS?

- > What fundamental assumptions underpin the current discussion of the topic?

Scientific, HEALTH & TECHNICAL Perspectives

1. HEALTH/MEDICINE?

- What research has been done in health, medicine, and animal sciences that is related to your topic?

2. ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES and SCIENCE?

- What research has been done in environmental science that is related to your topic?

3. BIO-CHEM-PHYSICS?

- What research has been done in biology, chemistry, and physics that is related to your topic?

4. APPLIED SCIENCE/Technology?

- How are the results of the research being applied or put into practice by individuals or social institutions?