

STORM SPOTTING – PARADIGM PERCEPTION

DEEP DIVE RESEARCH ROUND #1

Getting Beyond the Basics

Here's the assignment due at the beginning of class on **Wednesday, September 8.**

The focus of this assignment is researching current and important issues in the following FOUR different areas, and considering their impacts and implications:

1. **SCIENCE & THE ENVIRONMENT**
2. **TECHNOLOGY & CULTURE**
3. **HEALTH & PSYCHOLOGY**
4. **ARTS AND COMMUNICATION**

There are **two phases to this assignment**, and both involve throwing yourself into the research and specific developments which have been happening in the four areas above. At the same time you'll need to have your analytical antenna **UP** to assess the long-range implications or possible outcomes of such research or findings. Cultivate the **exploratory impulse** and engage your **sense of curiosity**.

Phase#1: EXPLORATORY RESEARCH in SCIENCE & THE ENVIRONMENT, TECHNOLOGY & CULTURE; HEALTH & PSYCHOLOGY and ARTS & COMMUNICATION

For this phase, you'll need to **read, screen, and investigate** a variety of RESOURCES which report on significant changes, research, and developments in these four areas. READ and screen broadly. A starter list of RESOURCES is posted on the MJD Senior Seminar Links page located here:

<http://academics.smcvt.edu/mjda/MJD450%20Senior%20RESEARCH%20Sem%20Links%20Resources.htm>

Your FOCUS in doing this research will be to **select 1 issue/topic from each of these areas (4 in all)** that you feel you could pursue/explore for your senior seminar project. For each of your selections, you'll want to consult the related links and research a bit more about the topic from different perspectives. Cross referencing and comparing sources will help here (e.g., NIMH vs. BBC Health vs. Science Times)

Phase#2: WRITTEN ANALYSES OF YOUR 4 TOPICS, in one page single-spaced for each topic, with full bibliographic citations for the resources you consulted.

In your writing for each topic, give a brief overview, and then go on to address some of the important IMPLICATIONS that you think are critical for us to consider now and in the future. This should be guided by and include a consideration of the three aspects below.

- (1) Think about unintended consequences and/or **UNEXPECTED** ways in which a trend or pattern has developed. What wasn't discussed in the research you consulted, but should have been?
- (2) You'll want to look at the **"fringe elements"** or **"extremes"** related to the topic.

And finally,

- (3) You'll want to think at how the issues or ideas of your topic might impact people **GLOBALLY** across gender, race, age, income, and geography.