

RESEARCH: Critical & Comparative Literature Review

MJD Senior Seminar Prof. J. Hyde

Paper Due: 1:30pm, Wednesday, October 26th

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 12. You will turn in a copy of the meeting confirmation and a written summary of the meeting (at least two explanatory paragraphs) to me via email by the end of the day on Wednesday, October 12. 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 26th** is a **timeline, a bibliography, and a 9-11 page, 12pt font, 1.5-spaced** paper that has the following five sections explained below. (Note: 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.

Section #2: TWO LIBERAL ARTS PERSPECTIVES AS FRAMES FOR ANALYSIS:

This section (at least **one and a half pages**, 12pt, 1.5 spaced) should discuss **TWO well-chosen LIBERAL ARTS PERSPECTIVES** and the **critical questions and issues** that each of them raises relative to your senior seminar project. You've already done Historical within the timeline, so the two additional liberal arts perspectives for this section won't include that. Instead, **use Anthro-Socio-Cultural** as one of your well-chosen liberal arts perspectives, and then pick your other one from the others we discussed in class: Political-Economic; Psychological; Philosophical; or Scientific. In this section, also note the name of the Reference Librarian that you met with, and the date and time of the meeting.

Section #3: COMPARE/CONTRAST IDEAS AND ARGUMENTS WITHIN CRITICAL LITERATURE:

This section (at least **five and a half pages**, 12pt, 1.5 spaced) is the critical comparison section. Here, you should describe the **key/important** critical literature on your topic, and then **compare and contrast** the authors' approaches and arguments. Note: this is where you discuss the four books and seven journal articles. **Absolutely DO NOT just string article summaries together.** The idea here is to analyze, synthesize, and compare ideas and arguments from the different authors. Of course, you will need to have thoroughly read and analyzed your sources before you begin writing this section.

Section #4: SOURCE LISTS OF CRITICAL/CENTRAL ISSUES AND MAJOR PEOPLE WHO SHAPE YOUR TOPIC

This section should be made up of **TWO separate lists** of no less than **10 items each**. One list should be of the central/critical issues related to your topic. The second list should be comprised of the major people (with brief descriptions) who have shaped these issues and the way we think about them. Ultimately, this second list will include people that you will need to interview for your topic.

Section #5: FINDINGS → RESHAPING YOUR PROJECT

In this section (at least **one and a half pages**, 12pt, 1.5 spaced) you should identify and **describe what your findings from the previous sections suggest** about **HOW you should now shape your project going forward**.

Bibliography:

Attach a bibliography (single-spaced) which appropriately details the books and articles that you've used. (**MLA format**). If you need a guide for a citation format, here is a resource for the MLA format:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html The bibliography is **not** part of the page count.