**Exhibition Project**

The instructor is the director of a museum on the verge of collapse. In order to save the museum, the director has rented out much of the space to hold private events, and is forced to the digital arena to display a new show. This director requires keen interns to help develop a digital mini exhibitions that will bring visitors back to the museum and increase donations. As this is a digital space, keep in mind the differences in experience between the physical museum space and the digital one.

Students become the researchers collecting artifacts and forming comparisons. The goal for students is to become museum curators, forming a presentation highlighting a theme from prehistory to 1400 and its connection to contemporary culture through the display of various artworks.  Students will work to develop an exhibition where their “room” expresses a proposed topic expressed through an argumentative curatorial research paper and emphasized through the digital display of the artifacts. The exhibition must be done using one of the following programs: Google Sites, Art Steps, or Prezi (Free with student email)

This section houses all information related to the course research project. This project is divided into sections scaffold toward more successful completion of the overall goal.

**Stage 1: Project Proposal**

To begin, select an theme focusing on artistic artifacts from prehistory to 1400 looking at a tie between these cultures and the contemporary world. For example, you might look at classical Greek architecture and the parallels to more recent architecture. Or, you may look at Gothic cathedrals and look for parallels in today's world. The idea is to show the influences of these now ancient cultures on contemporary symbolism and culture.

In a paragraph, explain why you chose this theme that you might explore. Submit by the end of week 2 the discussion forum. Discern whether you will be able to find sufficient research material to organize an exhibition around this artist and possible topic. List at least 2 of your scholarly references with a brief sentence or two describing the content of and connection to your theme for each. Your professor will provide feedback.

**Deliverables:**

* **Statement of Interest and a Possible**[**Thesis Statement**](https://learn.umuc.edu/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=211944&type=content&rcode=UMUC-2731691)
* **2 Scholarly References Cited in**[**MLA format**](https://learn.umuc.edu/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=211944&type=content&rcode=UMUC-2731669)
* **Critical analysis of referenced scholarly materials**

**Stage 2: Museum Field Trip**

In order to better understand the purpose of an exhibit, it is important to experience a museum exhibition. For this stage, you will visit a special museum exhibition either physically or digitally and describe how this experience will critically inform your work on this project.

**Step 1: Find a museum exhibit.**Look over your local area to find a museum that you can visit. Focus on museum collections that display works of visual art that fall within the context of the class (artwork from Prehistory to 1400). Ideally, look for a museum that is displaying work from the context of your artist that you have chosen to research.

**Note:**The museum exhibit should be **a special exhibit**. Special exhibits differ from the museum's collection as they are specially curated experiences where the curator displays a select group of artworks in order to express something. For instance: [This exhibit](http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/features/byzantine.html) at the National Gallery of Art focuses on the work of a the Byzantine era with the idea of explaining the relationship between the formal and spiritual. Thus the special exhibit attempts to tie the content and formal elements of the artworks to the context of place.

**Step 2: Visit the Special Exhibit either physically or digitally.**While it is encouraged that you visit the museum physically to fully experience the formal elements of works of art, this may not be possible in all cases. We will be producing the final exhibit in a digital format, so you will need to visit the exhibition with an eye to answering the following questions:

* What is the theme/focus of the exhibit?
* How does the curator introduce the theme?
* How does the curator tell a story about this theme?
* What comparisons are made across works of art on display and how are these comparisons made?
* Does the curator allow the viewer to form independent conclusions or make independent comparisons?
* How does the curator express any references or guide the viewer to other relevant material?
* What can you take-away from this experience that you might use in how you develop your exhibit and conduct your research?
* What do you want a viewer/reader to take away from your final product?

**Step 3: Find a curatorial essay from the exhibit.**Find a curatorial essay describing the intentions of the special exhibit published through the museum. Read it and compare it to the visual experience. How does the essay reflect and expand your understanding of the experience in viewing the artworks?

**Step 4:**Write a reflection that summarizes your experience. This summary should be between 5 and 7 paragraphs making an argument about the experience, a brief critical analysis of any curatorial essays and what conclusions you have formed through this experience.

**Deliverables:**

* **Identification of the exhibit you visited with URL.**
* **Identification of the curatorial essay you viewed in proper MLA format.**
* **5-7 paragraph length response to the museum exhibit in the discussion forum.**
* **Any scholarly references you consulted cited properly in MLA format (if you used any additional sources)**

**Stage 3: Contextual Exploration**

Write a brief contextual analysis of your theme looking both at the past and the present. Seek out the larger sociological, religious, and political concepts that may influence the formal and thematic qualities in the artistic artifacts you wish to provide in your exhibit.  Your contextual exploration should be about two pages long, double-spaced. Use at least 4 of your references; add more as needed. Submit by the end of week 4 to the provided area.

**Deliverables:**

* **2 Page paper in MLA format with minimum of 4 scholarly references cited properly.**

**Stage 4: Curation and Exhibition Draft**

Now you are ready to select the artistic artifacts that will be in your online exhibition. Choose a minimum of three and a maximum of five works of art that fit within your chosen topic. Conduct research on these works of art and write a brief commentary for each artwork for your online exhibition. You will want to include some combination of describing, analyzing, interpreting, and drawing conclusions. You will certainly want to make clear how the work of art relates to your overall theme. **Make comparisons among the works you have chosen.**Consider making these comparisons by the placement of artifacts within your digital exhibition space.

The Caption or header: Each work of art will need its number, the name of the artist, title of the work of art, its date, its medium, its size, and the institution/individual that owns the work of art. Place this information just below or next to each included image. This should be provided in [MLA format.](http://elmo.academyart.edu/reference-help/tours_and_tutorials/AAU_Image_Citation_Guide.pdf)

Place these into a presentation platform. It is strongly suggested to use [Prezi](https://prezi.com/) (free with a .edu email address), [Art Steps](http://www.artsteps.com/), or [Google Sites](https://sites.google.com/?pli=1) to create a non-linear viewing area. A link to this presentation draft should be provided in the proper area by the end of Week 5.

**Deliverables:**

* **3-5 Artworks that tie in to your chosen theme.**
* **Proper MLA captions for each artwork**
* **A brief commentary for each artwork making connections both to the theme and making comparisons across artworks to support your theme and thesis. (Be sure to cite any references properly here as well in MLA format)**
* **Formatted within a draft of your exhibition space (either in Prezi, Art Steps, or Google Sites)**

**Stage 5: Highlighted Work**

Write a two-page in-depth commentary for one of your artistic artifacts that is most representative of your theme and, of course, include the image of that work. [Writing about Art](http://arthistorysurvey.com/wiki/Writing+About+Art) resource posted in Course Content. Submit by the end of week 6 to the proper area. Format, cite, caption, and reference in MLA style with author/date and proper in-text citations required. Use Spell/Grammar check. Save as a Word doc or pdf file.

**Need Some Ideas?**

So, you are selecting one of your works of art for stage 5 and writing a more in-depth essay. You can include the information you wrote in stage 4 about the one artwork then expand on it; possibly it can serve as an overview or introductory statement. Or, you can mix the content from 4 within the in-depth content for 5. One strong direction will be to bring in an outside and contemporary artworks or works that would make a great comparative study and help to progress your narrative and connections between the past and the present. Or, you could further discuss the elements and principles of art focusing on a particular element or principle. Or, possibly talk about the iconography more extensively than the short descriptions written for Stage 4.

**Deliverables:**

* **2 Page commentary focused on one work of art in proper MLA format.**

**Stage 6: Exhibition Significance**

Think about why your viewers might be interested in your topic. In what ways might they make connections with your exhibition topic? To develop your exhibition, you will want to give a full explanation of your topic and its significance. This might include an examination theme through subject matter, style, or choice of media; information on how the topic has been treated by other artists and how they compare or contrast with your theme's exploration of the subject (include images), and historical context for understanding the theme you have chosen to focus on. This section should be about three pages in length, double-spaced. Submit by the end of week 7 to the provided area.

**Deliverables:**

* **3 Page introductory essay describing the significance of the exhibit for the field of art and art history.**

**Stage 7: Final Exhibition**

You are ready to do the final construction and polishing of your online exhibition! Your exhibition will include all stages, 1-6 (identified and in order), all images, any needed revisions plus any necessary additional information such as the Abstract (assigned for week 8) and a Conclusion (1 or 2 paragraphs) discussing how your exhibition illuminates the topic of the history in the arts and draws logical conclusions from the biography and analysis of the work that you provide.

A Descriptive Abstract about your Final Project should be around 100words, single-spaced, 12 pt. Times; include 5 keywords). If you want a critique, post by Thursday.

* This abstract may be placed as the front page of your Final Project.
* See this important resource: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/abstracts/>
* Here is an example of what a professional database listing with abstract looks like: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09528822.2010.517919#inline_frontnotes>

Abstracts are a very important part of academic/scholarly writing, and need special attention, since most everything ends up on the Internet and into databases. Keywords are essential for database searches and can be included within the body of your abstract text. So, choose these words carefully and select what you think will draw people to your work. For this project, include a listing of your keywords (5) at the bottom of your abstract. Citations are usually not included in abstracts as you are simply describing your project. Write in third person, passive tense. What is this? Go to:<http://www.squidoo.com/thesisabstract#module11245752>

Be sure to consider comments and suggestions made by your professor. Your complete References List should demonstrate quality; include at least six scholarly references and credits for all images. (Encyclopedia type websites are not the best choice for a college level final assessment and no Wikipedia allowed except for images.) The text for the final version should be about 10 to 12 pages, excluding images and Reference List, depending on how many images you select. Submit by the end of week 8 into the properly provided area. Your References cited in text (Chadwick, 48) should be placed in a Bibliography and images that are referenced in-text (Figure 1) should be moved to the end and captioned in proper order to avoid issues with paper formatting when comments are provided.

Please use the provided template for the final submission: [ARTH\_Exhibition\_Paper\_Template.docx](https://learn.umuc.edu/content/enforced/211942-M_026960-01-2172/ARTH_Exhibition_Paper_Template.docx?_&d2lSessionVal=JwrWKFcS3bknITdl9mw6ohmSL&ou=211942)

**Deliverables**

* **Abstract posted to discussion forum**
* **Provide a link to the exhibit in the discussion**
* **Attach your final paper**