

CCS 235 Textual Analysis Project:

5 pages, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman or Calibri font (as needed) OR 10-15 minute video essay or Podcast recording

APA, MLA, or Chicago style citations as needed (endnotes if using Chicago)

File name: LastName_235FocusProject#_S202x.doc

Due: x/x/202x, & x/x/202x, 11:59pm

Central Prompt:

Your final project for this class will be an inquiry project of your own choosing focused on examining how the concepts from class are present in a topic of your choosing, and

Twice during the semester, you will choose a piece of comic media – an outside ‘text’ – and present a brief critical analysis of this media based on the lenses and concepts available to you at that point in our learning journey. In this context, media can mean a comic book, a comic movie/cartoon/TV show, or a cultural reaction to comic media (i.e. an internet, Youtube, TikTok, or Instagram product engaging in comic fandom, or a live cultural event, e.g. a ComicCon panel, LARP, or film opening, where comic media drives a shared experience).

The goal of these analyses is demonstrating your ability to leverage the lenses from class in analyzing this chosen media. Regardless of what you choose as your topic, you will examine how race, ethnicity, gender, coloniality, etc. are represented and negotiated as a central aspect of the media, exploring this through research and analysis of traditional research literature, plus artifacts, interviews, social media, etc. This means that this isn’t just a book report—your task is to identify reputable academic sources that inform your inquiry, collect triangulating data, and present a critical analysis of the media in question.

There are several options for how you present this analysis, including a traditional written treatise, a podcast, a digital video, etc. Whatever the format, your task will be to delve into how concepts we have been discussing, and other questions of race, colonialism, and equity, played out in the particular content of your chosen text or media. Of the two analyses, one **MUST** be a paper, while the other may be a paper OR a podcast, video-essay, or other creative project.

You will meet with me at least once during the semester to touch base around these analyses, so I can be sure you are on the right track as you make choices of media, and research question/direction,. A few technical requirements for your research:

- Be sure you clearly state a research question/particular direction of interest that drove your inquiry, and that this is linked to a clear thesis statement.
- Use at least 3-5 rigorously vetted research sources beyond what we have used in class (though you are encouraged to use these as well).
- Use of **PRIMARY** data, which can take the form of images/media, historical interviews/quotes, etc. from your chosen media of focus.

Finally, a few notes that will be helpful in writing a research strong paper/drafting a strong script for a creative research analysis:

- Make sure you start with a strong research question. Be sure to have Prof. Domínguez check this for you before you begin your examination of your chosen media.
- Be aware that while all media could work—i.e. all comic media take place in our racial landscape, and thus have things (or the absence of) that might be critically reflected upon—not all media will be equally useful for analysis, nor will all media be equal in the difficulty they present (some texts are more nuanced & complicated to analyze than others).
- Make use of the library’s research tools, and vet your sources thoroughly—you are encouraged to stick to Peer-reviewed journals, and university press books, for the outside sources you find.
- It is unlikely you will find someone else who has explored the *exact* same research question as you. That is a good thing. You’ll need to find related research that offers other information or perspectives, and use that to help you understand the topic you are exploring better, and make the argument you want to make.
- Related to that, this is an analysis project – NOT a book report on the comic/film. You are making an argument based on the answer to your research question, and about how others should make sense of and understand something in the world. This means analyzing what data and evidence is most compelling, not summarizing it. Even when reporting on related or background research, the question your writing should answer is: ‘How does this help explain/make sense of the thing I am saying is important/exciting about this comic/movie?’
- You are also encouraged to connect to other things we have read to help support your arguments.
- You will be examining a number of longer sources, and media. Our projects are short responses to this. Strong projects will take up the clearly focused research question about their chosen media, and thoughtfully analyze the relevant findings in pointed ways, rather than make a list of things the research says, but only discuss them in shallow terms, or never offer their own argument/thesis.
- More than anything, your DATA—the primary source information collected from media itself—should make up the bulk of your paper. Let your analysis of this primary source data be the focus, and build your claims from the origin of the content.
- Don’t be afraid to include the personal in this essay, noting the overall goals of the paper do involve a primary engagement with research and data you are collecting from beyond yourself. Here, you may use your experiences to shape your argument, or add substance to a claim, but your primary sources of information will be your research.
- Make use of both the MLA/APA templates available to you, as well as the research paper exemplar outline we will go over in class.