

Cyborgs & Prosthetics
Final Essay or Project
Fall 2018

For your Final this semester, you may choose to write an essay on a topic of your choosing or you may complete a project. **Either must be directly related to our course content – Cyborgs & Prosthetics.** Parameters for each follow:

IF YOU ARE WRITING A FINAL ESSAY:

Due Dates:

- Proposed Topic
Submit your proposed topic to me by email by **12M on Thursday, Nov. 22** (this gives you two weeks after that until your final essay is due). I will provide feedback. Often this feedback takes the form of letting you know if I feel the scope of your topic might be too broad for the time you have to devote to this assignment, or that the scope appears to be a bit narrow and you might have difficulty finding enough “meat” about which to write. We will talk back and forth and figure out how to tweak the idea to so that it is ambitious but not overwhelming. If you have already had this discussion with me and we have reached agreement (ask if you’re not sure!) you do not need to do this again.
- Final Essay
Submitted on Blackboard by **12M on Thursday, Dec. 6.**

Choosing a Topic:

- During the course of this semester, we have covered a lot of ground on the subject on Cyborgs & Prosthetics. Think back over all the material we have read, the videos and films we have viewed, our classroom discussions, all that you and your classmates have shared. What caught your interest? What made you mad? What do you wish you could change? Those tend to be the subjects about which you are passionate and make for the best essay-writing material! If you are stuck, look back over the Reading Response prompts for the semester. Some of those would make excellent essay topics and you would have the added benefit of being able to read what your classmates had to say on that subject.

Mechanics:

- Put your name in the file.
- Your finished paper should be 1200 words or more, about 4-6 pages, plus any images you use.

- Your paper should draw directly upon our class readings this semester, including at least two good references/quotes (more is fine) and should also include information from at least two additional reference sources (more is fine) that we did not use in class (no Wikipedia). Not only does this demonstrate your mastery of the course material, it lends credibility to your arguments.
- Your paper must be typed and double-spaced in a standard 12-point font. You must cite all quotes and paraphrases in a format appropriate for your discipline; for instance, History majors should use Chicago-style footnotes and bibliography. If you use images (photographs or drawings, etc.), those also must be properly cited.
- Your paper should be well-organized, with a strong thesis statement and well-written topic sentences in each paragraph. There should be logical sequencing of ideas through the use of well-developed paragraphs and transitions.
- There should be few, if any, typos, misspellings and grammatical errors. I highly recommend that you get a friend to proof-read your final version. By the time you finish writing a paper, it's hard to see your own mistakes!

Needless to say, the paper must represent your own work. Be sure that your citations (including your punctuation) indicate clearly what are your own thoughts and words and where you are referencing those of others.

I recommend that you write this paper as if it were the first stage of an essay you plan to submit for publication (or for a UTA essay-writing contest, or for presentation at a Disability Studies conference, etc.) rather than simply as a class assignment. Your language will be a little more formal or academic and many of these essays ARE good enough for submission as an abstract, at the very least!

IF YOU ARE CREATING A FINAL PROJECT:

Due Dates:

- Project Proposal
Complete the attached Project Overview Form and send it to me by email by **12M on Tuesday, Nov. 20** (this gives you two weeks after that until the date of your Project Presentation – if there is a presentation component). I will provide feedback and we will tweak the idea as needed to arrive at something that is ambitious but achievable. I realize some of you have already been working on your projects for some time, with input from me. Please go ahead and do submit the Project Overview Form, as that will help us “formalize” ideas which may have changed or drifted a bit over time.
- Project Presentations
If there is a Presentation component to your project, the date of your presentation will be **Tuesday, Dec. 4** (which is the last day we meet as a class). If you or a key team member cannot be in class on Dec. 4, make arrangements with me for your presentation to be on an earlier date. **I cannot stress enough that ALL team members**

should have copies of ALL of the materials needed for the presentation. I have repeatedly seen presentations derailed when one person has all the presentation materials and that person has an emergency arise and can't make it to class.

- Project Due Date if No Presentation Component
If your project has no presentation component, all deliverables are due to be submitted on Blackboard by **12M on Thursday, Dec. 6.**
- Project Documentation
This includes your One Sheet (described below) and any supporting documents such as spreadsheets, photographs, blogs, videos, etc. Due on Blackboard by midnight on the day before your Presentation if there is a Presentation Component (so probably 12M on Dec. 3) or by 12M on Thursday, Dec. 6 if there is no Presentation Component.
- Project One Sheet
This is a one page overview completed at the end of your project which summarizes the project and its results. Include it with the rest of your Project Documentation.

Choosing a Project:

A project can take many forms. It could be research with a presentation, it could be an innovative object that you manufacture or a piece of software you design, a video documentary, a work of art, a performance, etc. In all cases, your project should be directly related to our course content, i.e., Cyborgs and Prosthetics.

If you are interested in doing a project, but are stuck for a subject, think back over all the material we have read, the videos and films we have viewed, our classroom discussions, all that you and your classmates have shared. What caught your interest? What made you mad? What do you wish you could change? Do you see an unaddressed need that you could do something about? Those tend to be the subjects about which you are passionate and can result in dynamic project ideas!

In terms of scope, the time allotted for writing a Final Essay is usually about two weeks, so a project should be an amount of work roughly equivalent to that (although frankly projects almost always seem to require more time and effort than writing an essay).

It's important to focus in on exactly what you plan to achieve with your project and what your "deliverables" will be. Will you be showing us an object, will there be a PowerPoint presentation, a Blog, spreadsheets, photographs, a video? How will we evaluate the success of the project?

Teams:

You may choose to work on a project alone or you are welcome to build a team. Your team members may be drawn from within the class or can include outside resource people such

as FabLab personnel or friends with skills or knowledge that can contribute to the scope or quality of your project.

If you create a team with classmates, the complexity or scope of your project should be exponentially greater than if you were working alone. To clarify, for a team of three people, the project should be three times as complex or broad in scope as it would be for one person; not the reasonable amount of work for one person divided three ways.

PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM

Name of project: _____

Briefly describe the nature of your project:

What are your “Deliverables?”

What do you hope to achieve – what are your desired results?

Who is on your team and what is the role that each will fulfill:

How will we evaluate the success of your project?

PROJECT ONE SHEET

Name of Project: _____

Brief Description of Project:

List Team Members and what each contributed to the Project (be specific):

List Project Deliverables:

Results:

What were the results of your Project? Did you achieve what you hoped? What were your key learnings? What would you do the same or differently next time? Has your work on this project led to any ideas for future projects or expansion on this one? (Your answer can exceed one page.)