HUM2420: African Humanities Research Paper and Poster Assignment Description

The final project is your opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned about African Humanities in this class. It will consist of a five-page research paper and an accompanying research poster that situates expressive culture in African Humanities within its specific and unique social and historical context. The topic can relate to any medium of expressive culture within the humanities (art, music, film, poetry, news, dance, et.) or a combination of different mediums. The topic must refer to a specific country, cultural group or region in Africa or take a comparative continent-wide approach. Some example topics include;

- *Nigerian voices reflect fifty years of revolution in the music of Fela Kuti, Ade Bantu, and Ziriums.*
- *Cultural representations of the springbok in South African sport, art, and currency.*
- *Globalizing Africa in haute couture with the Nigerian, Senegalese, and South African designers*
- *Reflections of changing gender roles through representations of women in African cinema*

Research Paper Format:
The written component of your project will satisfy the General Education Learning Outcome (GELO) for Global-Socio-Cultural Responsibility. Your paper must demonstrate an understanding of diversity/pluralism in the world community by *analyzing*, *synthesizing*, and *evaluating* a creative medium in African Humanities that expresses unique social and historical experiences.

Goals for your paper:
- define a perspective in a thesis statement that is relevant to diversity/pluralism in Africa and is based on the analysis of at least *three supporting examples*,
- interpret expressive culture in Africa according to unique and changing social and historical contexts
- analyze cultural diversity in Africa using information from *scholarly* sources
- synthesize new information in a conclusion that ties diversity/pluralism in Africa to a broader global context

Formatting: Minimum five double-spaced pages, Times New Roman, 12-point font, one-inch margins, use sub-headers, no extra spaces between paragraphs, name date and title in header. Download Word template from Canvas for assistance.

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The chart below is a framework for your paper to help you achieve the goals above. You can also download the Word template from Canvas.

Introductory Paragraph: **Take a Perspective**	**Define a perspective in a thesis statement that is relevant to diversity/pluralism in Africa and is based on the analysis of at least three supporting examples.** Use declarative sentences without pronouns or qualifiers (ie 'In my opinion'). Author comes from the word authority, be authoritative in your writing. Some examples include: 1. Female hip hop artists in South Africa challenge gender roles through lyrics, video performance and interviews that promote women's empowerment. 2. African graffiti is raising awareness about social and political equality through the works of talented artists and thought-provoking slogans in three central African countries. 3. Nigerian cinema reflects global class relationships through language, lifestyle and material modes of living.
Background Paragraph: **Knowledge of Cultural Worldview Frameworks**	**Interpret expressive culture in Africa according to unique and changing social and historical contexts.** Establish the social & historical context of expressive culture in relation to unique and changing experiences in relation to history, values, politics, economies, etc. This paragraph does not need to address the entire history of the region/country/cultural group, but it should introduce relevant events related to the topic.
Body Paragraphs (at least three) **Cultural Diversity**	Introduce **at least three examples** from multiple sources that reflect the unique and/or changing worldviews and experiences addressed in the thesis statement. Each paragraph should describe and analyze one example in a way that supports your thesis statement.
Conclusion **Global & Self Awareness**	**Synthesize new information in a conclusion that ties diversity/pluralism in Africa to a broader global context.** Provide a concluding statement that reflects the thesis statement and situates local cultural phenomena in Africa within a global context. This paragraph should reiterate the thesis statement but also connect Africa to the rest of the world. For example, address the ways that female hip hop artists contribute to the global hip hop scene, African graffiti artists contribute to global efforts toward democracy, or how Nigerian cinema brings African culture to the global film industry.
References	**Analyze cultural diversity in Africa using information from scholarly sources.** There should be at least five *scholarly* sources that are properly formatted (any style) and cited in the text. Refer to the annotated bibliography lesson in Canvas for information about scholarly research, recommended search engines, and proper formatting. (The references should not be annotated.) Note the syllabus and assignment description specifies that failure to include citations is an automatic '0.'

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Step One: Topic Selection

The first task is to decide and define the topic of your paper and poster. This may require some additional exploratory research on the topic to ensure there is sufficient material to conduct research and write a paper. Write a 100-word description of your topic, submit it to Canvas and provide constructive criticism to at least three other student submissions using the criteria specified in this rubric. Keep in mind this is a humanities course; you must address African Humanities using what you have learned in this class.

Step Two: Annotated bibliography

The second task is to conduct scholarly research to produce an annotated bibliography of scholarly work related to the research topic. **There must be at least five scholarly references**. See Canvas for a list of resources on annotated bibliographies, conducting research, and formatting references. Format the references in any style. Submit the annotated bibliography to Canvas and provide constructive criticism to at least three submissions by other classmates verifying that their references are scholarly.

Step Three: Outline

Produce and submit an outline of your research for in-class peer review and provide constructive criticism to at least three of your classmates using the grading rubric. You must provide constructive criticism using the chart above; simply telling someone they did a great job does not earn credit. The outline should include:

- Introduction: thesis statement with three sources of support
- Background Paragraph with references that will be used in the paper
- Body Paragraph 1 Topic with references that will be used in the paper Body Paragraph 2 Topic with references that will be used in the paper
- Body Paragraph 3 topic with references that will be used in the paper:
- Conclusion:
- References: formatted (not annotated)

Step Four: Paper Peer Review

Produce and submit a finished version of your final paper early for peer review and provide feedback (in class and on Canvas) to at least four of your classmates using the grading rubric described here. You must provide constructive criticism; simply telling someone they did a great job does not earn credit.

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Research Poster

The poster is a visual representation of your paper. It should include a section for each of the elements in the paper chart as well as graphics and images.

Poster checklist:

- Introductory overview
- Background (social and historical context)
- Three sections for supporting data
- Conclusion
- References: formatted and in-text
- images of people and the expressive culture (must include image credits)
- map of Africa with country/region highlighted
- Banner with title, subtitle, name, date, class, SF logo

The poster will be graded according to:

- Aesthetic & Design: poster is neat, organized (left to right, top to bottom, etc.), easy to read, balanced, etc. (2 points)
- Content: Includes all components in checklist (5 points)
- Writing: spelling, grammar, style (do not use 'they'), is not copied direct from paper (2 points)
- References: Formatted and cited in text (1 point, failure to include is an automatic zero for the entire project.)

Students may use any software program to produce the poster. See the Poster weblesson for a tutorial and links to free online programs and a downloadable powerpoint template.

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Note: You can change the colors or style of this template at anytime. This is only to provide a basic framework. You are expected to modify as much as possible.

Title (general)
Subtitle (more specific)

Map that clearly shows country or region to uninformed viewer

Introduction

This is where you provide a thesis statement and a brief overview of the poster. You should not copy and paste directly from your paper, but edit a more concise version of three to four sentences.

The text boxes will contract or expand according to the amount of text you insert.

Socio-Historical Context

This is where you describe the social and historical context of the expressive medium you are addressing in your paper/poster. Assume the reader knows nothing about Africa. Be simple and succinct, while at the same time avoiding the usual trap of beginning African history with Europe.

Try to include an accompanying image such as a simple timeline or other image or infographic that conveys visual information.

Empire Date → Colonization Date → Independence Date
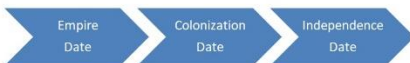
Supporting Data 1

Provide a synopsis of data from your first supporting paragraph here. Be sure to include the in-text citations (or use footnotes).
You also need to leave enough room to provide a visual image to accompany the data (picture of artist, an album cover, etc. Be sure to also include the image source with the image to avoid copyright infringements. You can insert The image inside the text box, or place the image in a separate text box.

Caption with image source

Supporting Data 2

Same instructions for Data 1 section. Consider specific subtitles for each section that will tie back into your thesis statement.

The subheadings will let the reader know how the poster is organized and which section to read next. It will also help you organize the information in your poster.

If there is an accompanying graphic, be sure it is obvious which textbox it is associated with.

Supporting Data 3

Same instructions for Data 1 section. Consider specific subtitles for each section that will tie back into your thesis statement.

Similar to the other sections, you do not want to copy and paste directly from your paper. Only include the main ideas from each paragraph. The goal is to provide enough interest in the subject that the viewer will want to learn more by reading your paper.

Keep in mind, that when it comes to text, LESS IS MORE. Using bullets, and the addition of graphics such as images, charts, graphs, etc. will help the viewer learn more:

'a picture is worth a thousand words'
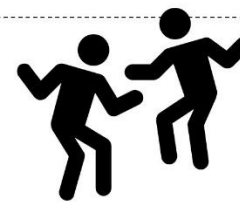
Caption with image source

Conclusion

This is where you provide a concluding statement that reflects the thesis statement and situates local cultural phenomena in Africa within a global context.

What do you want to the reader to take away from reading your paper and viewing your poster?

Once you have your data in the poster, begin working n the aesthetic and design: are the boxes aligned? Is it easy to read?

CHECK FOR SPELLING ERRORS!!

For extra credit, save as a jpg and submit for peer review. Be sure to save the original so you can go back and revise it.

References

There should be at least five scholarly references used in your research
Format the references using any citation style
Be sure to include intext citations as either footnotes or parenthesis.

Name
Date
HUM2420: African Humanities with Dr. Sarah Cervone

Optional pic

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