

Digital Assignment: The Shadow Narrative

Goal of This Assignment

To utilize creative and critical skills and techniques to build an in-depth narrative for a minor or secondary character in the chosen text.

The Details

For your final major assignment in this class, you will work in groups of 4 or 5 to tell the story of a minor or secondary character in one of the texts whose function or role in the text seems ambiguous, secretive, mysterious, vague, or somehow unfulfilled. Your charge in this project is to “fill in the gaps” of this person’s story. What can your group tell us about the character that didn’t make it onto the page? What information might make them more compelling? More important? More dangerous? More understandable?

You will be given both an individual grade (15%) and a group grade (10%) for this project. As a result, each individual will be responsible for producing three project components:

- A social component: This is intended to give the audience insight into the character’s interaction with the world and their presentation of themselves – how they craft their image. This can be a fake Facebook page, a Twitter feed, an Instagram account, a Pinterest page, a collection of Snapchat images, a BuzzFeed list or article, or any other social component that you approve with me in advance. Word count is less important here, but each component will involve a certain level of detail based on platform, so you will need to submit your individual choices to me so that we can discuss expectations.
- A critical component: This will involve approximately 500 words of historical, cultural, critical, or theoretical context for this character and this text. Examples of this might be a page discussing the historical background on the city in which the novel is written, a few paragraphs on how the race/class/gender of the character would have navigated the time period, the time period itself, analysis of a scholarly article or book on the text and in particular on the character you are focused on. This will require the use of one critical source.
- A creative component: This component is intended to give us insight into the character’s psyche and mindset. It will involve approximately 500 words of a combination of any of the following elements: a poem or poems by the character, diary entries, a short story written by the character, a brief video or podcast, a song written by the character, letters written by the character, a CV or resume written by the character, etc. or any other suggestion you might have.

All of the above components must be vetted by me so that I can make sure they meet the requirements of this assignment and so that we can avoid duplication within groups.

This assignment, then of course, will take considerable creativity, and you'll use a website as a vehicle to house their story (preferred platforms are Wix and Wordpress). This project should be a robust, interactive, multimodal website by the time it is complete; we will be taking a look at these in class on the last day of the semester.

Project Specifications

Please pick and choose from the following components for the individual part of your group project and then follow the directions for that component. You must choose one component from each of the three categories (social, critical, creative) to complete for your individual part of this project unless you are completing the website; in that case, you must choose one from each of two categories to complete.

Social component

- 1) Facebook page: complete at least two pages of the template with at least ten status updates and/or build your own profile with at least ten likes, "about" information completed, and ten status updates
- 2) Twitter feed: complete the template and add one additional page of tweets or build your own Twitter account with approximately 20 tweets
- 3) Instagram account: use the template to create approximately 20 images with captions or build your own Instagram account with approximately 20 images
- 4) Pinterest page: build your own Pinterest page with at least 20 pinned items and captions for those items
- 5) BuzzFeed list or article: a title (ex: "10 Ways To Make Over a Cardigan") with ten list items explained
- 6) Other social component that you approve with me in advance (please email me to discuss)

Critical component

Note: This element requires the use of one outside source with in-text citations and a Works Cited page. This source must be trustworthy and reputable, and it can be a website (no Encyclopedia Britannica, Wikipedia, etc. sources allowed), book, scholarly journal article, newspaper article, or magazine article. Please see me if you have a question about your source. You will not receive full credit for this assignment if you do not include a source and cite it appropriately.

All entries must have approximately 500 words of historical, cultural, critical, or theoretical context for this character and this text. Examples of this might be:

- 1) A page discussing the historical background on the city in which the novel is written
- 2) A few paragraphs on how the race/class/gender of the character would have navigated the time period
- 3) The time period itself
- 4) Analysis of a scholarly article or book on the text and in particular on the character you are focused on. This will require the use of one critical source.

Creative component

Please complete three of any of the following:

- 1) poem
- 2) diary entry written by the character
- 3) letter written by the character
- 4) short story written by the character
- 5) a brief video or podcast
- 6) song written by the character
- 7) a CV or resume written by the character
- 8) painting
- 9) other creative component that you approve with me in advance (please email me to discuss)