**ENG 206 Introduction to Shakespeare**

**Digital Humanities Capstone Project**

**Grade Value: 200 points possible for project/presentation 50 points possible for reflective essay**

**Due Date: April 22-27 (depending on your presentation date)**

\*\*\*All students must be present in class during each presentation date regardless of whether or not it is your day to present. Failure to attend all presentation dates will result in a loss of 100 points from YOUR project\*\*\*

We are becoming increasingly invested in and reliant upon **digital** mediums to gather information, complete work, and communicate. The proliferation of social media in our everyday lives has wide-reaching implications for how we live and how we share parts of our lives. We joke that folks will send text messages or use their smart devices to communicate with or avoid communicating with people who are nearby—sometimes in the same room. This preference for digital interfaces has become a stand-in for or a supplement to entering into verbal discourse. It can be said that as digital modes of connection have become extensions of how we live that we are evolving into digital humans. This final project invites you to draw upon your experience of digital technology, but to do so from a scholarly platform. That is, this final project challenges you to share your research and findings via the digital world. To complete this project, you must conduct original research, develop a thesis, and analyze literature. However, you will share your findings through a digital medium rather than a traditional research paper.

**Digital pedagogy** is on the rise. More teachers and scholars are recognizing the value of the **digital** humanities—which is one of the fastest growing subfields in humanities education and scholarship. The **digital humanities** (DH) give scholars more options for sharing research and expressing ideas than traditional papers. DH may include elements such as data-mining, statistical data, open-source materials (that may include images and/or videos), social mediums, web portal materials, and websites.

For this assignment, you will create a **website** or a **video** that focuses on some element of Shakespeare’s life and/or history and demonstrates close attention to at least one of his plays or a grouping of the sonnets. You may draw from any of Shakespeare’s writings—not just those on our syllabus. However, if you wish toform your capstone project around *Richard III* or *Macbeth* (both plays for which we will have conducted a formal closer reading assignment) you must clear that with me in advance and you must make a good case for why you wish to select from those works

Your project must consist of the creation of an **original** **website** or **video** designed specifically for this course. Your project will focus on a **specific** **topic** about your chosen text and/or author. You must incorporate **visual** materials and **written** text, some of which should show evidence of research (from the reliable web sources as well as print mediums (such as books, journal articles, etc.).

Here are **guidelines** for the project:

* Construct a **digital project** that helps interested readers/viewers/students interpret or study Shakespeare and the work you have chosen to concentrate on. Keep in mind that the site or video needs to have a guiding **purpose**—it can be educational in nature and target a certain age group, or it can simply show any reader of literature a way of interpreting works through words (yours and other scholars’) and images. Understand that your site or video should contain a mixture of **verbal** text (sentences) and **visuals** (images of plays/texts, paintings, photos of authors, performances, recorded readings etc.). The site may also include embedded video or sound bites, if relevant.
  + If you create a video, you will need to upload it to **YouTube** at <http://www.youtube.com/> and you must demonstrate original research that is evident IN the video.
  + If you create a website, you may elect to sign up for a **free** **account** with a **website** **designing** service such as **Wix** at <http://www.wix.com/>, **Google Sites** at <http://www.google.com/sites/help/intl/en/overview.html>, **Wikispaces** at <http://www.wikispaces.com/>, or **Weebly** at <http://www.weebly.com/>. (Feel free to use another service.) These sites offer stunning templates that make web design easy. They allow you to add text, images, videos, pages, etc. simply, and they offer quick tutorials, too. If I can use these sites, you can, too.

**Your project MUST demonstrate:**

* An organizing idea, a thesis statement ,and the use of primary and/or secondary **sources** to create the material for the site or video. I must see that you have incorporated sources and where you generated those sources (library, website, journal, etc).
* Include at least **five** **sources** (besides the text/author’s materials) that will help bring your argument into conversation with other writings on the text/work by Shakespeare or on the subject matter that you have chosen to address in your paper. (Note: Images and videos may count as primary sources.)
  + Think about how you can draw on a scholar’s writing on the work(s) or author to help further your own interpretation and analysis of the text you are featuring.
  + Keep in mind that sources on a topic, such as masculinity, commerce, exchange, love, etc. can help you set up your claims
* Use **parenthetical** **citations** (if you create a website) to cite the works and any research your use, and include a **Works Cited** somewhere on the site or video with all sources cited correctly according to MLA citation style. Please provide citations for images and videos, too.
* **Publish** (post) your site online, and make sure that all links to pages within the website are active. I must see clear evidence that you created the site. Hence, your **name** and **date** should appear somewhere on the site.
* Provide me with your **web** **address** by sending me a link (on blackboard) to your site *before* class begins on the due date.
* Be ready on your presentation day (You **will** be assigned a date) to present your project to the class. If your site or video does not work, you will not get full credit for the assignment! Make sure it is accessible before the final day of class.
* **Upload** the textual content of your website (the text you wrote for the site) to **SafeAssign** before class begins—this should read and be formatted like an academic paper (because it is). If you don’t take this step, I will not give you a grade for this project.
  + For those of you who create **websites**, keep track of your text in a word-processing document. Upload that file (not the site) to SafeAssign.
  + For those of you who create **videos**, compose your text in a word-processing document. Upload that file (not the site) to SafeAssign.
  + Post a link to your completed web-based presentation on Blackboard under the “Capstone Presentations” button.

Your project will be **evaluated** on your ability to satisfy the requirements of this assignment, particularly related to the appearance of your site or video, the strength of your statements, your handling of the material you focus on (the work(s)/author), and your use of sources.

**Short on Ideas?**

Your approach to this project will vary based on your interests (such as authorship, performance, pedagogy, or literary analysis). Here are a few ideas that might guide you to a topic:

* Historical details relevant to the study of Shakespoeare’s life and works
* History of production: Costume, Theaters, Actors and Actresses, Stage history of the play
* Adaptations
* Films on the play/author
* Character types such as
  + Evil queens
  + Prideful heroes
  + Pitiful victims
  + Old/Elderly figures
  + Protagonists/Antagonists
  + Women
  + Contexts (what aspects of the world informs this work or the writer)
* Folklore/Legend/History
* Cultural/Social background
* Captivity/entrapment
* Freedom (ideas about freedom)
* Author biographical details and publication history
* Literary elements such as
  + Plot development,
  + Aristotelian tragic devices
  + Theme
  + Symbolism
  + Irony
  + Use of Prose/Verse