

LIT 652 Final Project Guidelines and Rubric

Overview

For your final project, you will develop an original, well-crafted, well-supported final research paper of publishable quality, 15–20 pages in length. In the assessment, you will use one theoretical approach and two primary sources from this course to develop and support an original literary argument; evaluate the impact of historical and social contexts within global literature; and assess the way global literary texts influence, adopt, or reject the values, ideals, and beliefs of their cultural and historical contexts.

Scholarly work of publishable quality is one significant end-goal in literary and writing fields. Being able to select relevant primary and secondary global literary texts is necessary to scholarly, publishable work. This project asks you to engage in scholarly discourse and produce a cohesive, clear, organized final research paper. Determining applicable historical, social, and political contexts within literature is another key part of producing work of publishable quality.

This assessment addresses the following course outcomes:

- Create original interpretations of global texts by applying key elements of theoretical approaches
- Assess global literary texts for their impact on cultural ideals and beliefs of where they originated
- Evaluate the validity and reliability of secondary sources in order to create an original argument about global literature
- Construct an original argument regarding works of global literature through the integration of literary theories and secondary sources
- Assess global literature for its adoption or rejection of cultural ideals and beliefs of where they originated

The project is divided into **four milestones**, which will be submitted at various points throughout the course to scaffold learning and ensure quality final submissions. These milestones will be submitted in **Modules Two, Four, Five, and Seven**. The final research paper will be due in **Module Nine**.

Prompt

For this project, you will be required to select two global works from this course and apply a theoretical approach (e.g., postcolonial, cultural studies, gender studies, psychoanalysis, etc.) to those texts. Through that approach, you will develop an original literary argument and explore the impact of those texts on their historical and cultural contexts. Your use of secondary sources from within the field of literary studies will help you to develop your theoretical approach, and to show how the texts you are analyzing reflect their cultural, historical, and political contexts. Use extensive evidence from both primary and secondary sources to support the claims of your research paper.

You may choose to focus your final research paper principally on one primary text from the course while referring to one or more others as additional support for your ideas. Alternatively, you may choose to develop an argument that draws from two primary texts equally to explore a broader theoretical or cultural perspective. Feel free also to use your paper to address one of the themes or issues raised in the class: modernism and modernity, postcolonialism and globalization, the roles of women, power and agency, subjectivity and the role of the individual, and so on.

You will begin by developing a writing plan that will help you organize the information that will go into your paper. Your final research paper of 15–20 pages will reflect the feedback you have received throughout the course.

Specifically, the following critical elements must be addressed:

I. Writing Plan

- A. Identify **two works** of global literature that you will use to write your research paper, and describe your rationale for choosing these.
- B. Describe the **tone** in which these texts present the culture of where they originated.
- C. Provide a brief overview of how these texts have **impacted** the culture of where they originated.
- D. Present the **argument** that you will support throughout your research paper.
- E. Describe your **thought process** that led you to this argument.
- F. Describe the **parts** of each text that will be focused on to support your argument.
- G. Determine which **literary theory** you will apply to these texts, and justify your response.
- H. Locate **secondary resources** that will be used to support your argument and claims, and describe why each is reliable.
- I. Briefly describe how you will use each resource to **support** your argument.

II. Introduction

- A. Overview the **works** of global literature that you will be analyzing in this research paper. Consider addressing how each text reflects values, ideals, and beliefs in the culture from which it originated and for its respective time period.
- B. Craft an original **thesis** that clearly states your argument and sets the tone for the rest of your research paper.

III. Body

- A. Construct multiple paragraphs that are focused, clearly state their **intent**, and move logically from one to the other, building the thesis argument and literary interpretation as the research paper progresses.
- B. Expand upon your **interpretation** of each text and introduce key parts of each that will be focused on throughout the research paper.
- C. Analyze changes in **culture** that are a result of these texts. Use evidence to support claims.
- D. Interpret how these texts have either adopted or rejected cultural **ideals and beliefs** and support your claims with examples from each text.
- E. Integrate **secondary resources** throughout your body paragraphs to support ideas and claims.

IV. Conclusion

- A. Re-articulate your interpretations and summarize the **key points**.
- B. Summarize the light in which these texts present their **cultural ideals** and beliefs.
- C. Articulate **universal insights** about your argument through a theoretical lens.

Milestones

Milestone One: Topic Selection

In **Module Two**, you will submit your **topic selection**. Describe the proposed topic of your final research paper in 1–2 pages. Your topic selection should state which works of global literature from the course you will focus on and describe briefly how you will use these works in your paper. Review Emily Apter’s article [Untranslatables: A World System](#) for an introduction to some themes and approaches when considering literature in a global context. In your topic selection, be sure to address the following questions:

- What themes, ideals, or values expressed in the works do you intend to explore, and how do you see them at work in these texts specifically? (For example, modernism and modernity, postcolonialism and globalization, the roles of women, power and agency, the body and embodiment, subjectivity and the role of the individual, etc.)
- Will you focus primarily on one text, using others as points of comparison or contrast, or will you focus on two works equally? Provide a brief evaluation of the text(s) chosen.
- Which theoretical approach do you think might be most relevant for exploring these texts and issues? (For example, postcolonial studies, cultural studies, gender studies, psychoanalysis, etc. Feel free to consult the article on [Literary Theory](#) in the peer-reviewed and open access *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* for an introduction to a number of theoretical approaches to literature.)

This milestone is graded with the Milestone One Rubric.

Milestone Two: Writing Plan

In **Module Four**, you will submit your **writing plan**. In 2–3 pages, develop a writing plan of your final research paper. Use your writing plan to give an overview of your research paper, including the works you are analyzing and the theoretical perspective you are using to interpret them. First, identify the two works of global literature that you will analyze in your research paper and describe your rationale for choosing them. You should briefly introduce these works and their significance within their cultural and historical contexts. Give a summary of the argument or thesis you will pursue in your research paper, including your interpretation of the themes, ideals, and values that you see reflected in these works. Describe how you arrived at this argument and explain which aspects or parts of the texts you are focusing on in your interpretation. Then, present the theoretical perspective you are adopting in your research paper. Explain your understanding of this theory as expressed in secondary sources you have found on this topic, and describe why you think it is relevant for interpreting these works. Finally, give a brief description of the secondary sources you will use in your research paper and be sure to explain their relevance specifically. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone Two Rubric.**

Milestone Three: Research Exercise

In **Module Five**, you will submit your **research exercise**. As preparation for using secondary sources in your final research paper, choose two credible and relevant scholarly articles within the field of literary studies on the topic of your final paper. In your own words, summarize the arguments of each source—explain how they each use close reading, contextual evidence, and theoretical approaches (or any other techniques you can identify) to make their arguments. Be sure to identify the primary theoretical approach of each source and how this approach is used specifically in the article. What themes, ideals or values from the primary texts do these articles focus on, and how might you use them to support your own argument in your final research paper? What points of contrast or overlap do



you see between these two articles? Your research exercise should be between 2 and 3 pages, and should provide a basis for you to incorporate further research on your topic into your final research paper. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone Three Rubric.**

Milestone Four: Research Paper Draft

In **Module Seven**, you will submit your **research paper draft**. Based on the writing plan you submitted for Milestone Two, write a draft (minimum 10 pages) of your final research paper. Your draft should present a well-developed argument in which you support your interpretation of the primary texts you have chosen, making reference to the research you have done. Your draft should include an introduction where you give an overview of the works you are analyzing, and state your thesis. In your body paragraphs, give specific examples from your primary texts, including quotes where necessary, as well as your own interpretation of these examples. Use references to secondary sources to support your points. Be sure also to write a conclusion to your research paper where you give an overview of your main ideas and highlight the broader significance of your argument. You will receive feedback both from your peers and from the instructor on your draft. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone Four Rubric.**

Final Submission: Final Research Paper

In **Module Nine**, you will submit your **final research paper**. It should be a complete, polished artifact containing **all** of the critical elements of the final product. It should reflect the incorporation of feedback gained throughout the course. **This submission is graded with the Final Project Rubric.**

Deliverables

Milestone	Deliverable	Module Due	Grading
One	Topic Selection	Two	Graded separately; Milestone One Rubric
Two	Writing Plan	Four	Graded separately; Milestone Two Rubric
Three	Research Exercise	Five	Graded separately; Milestone Three Rubric
Four	Research Paper Draft	Seven	Graded separately; Milestone Four Rubric
	Final Submission: Final Research Paper	Nine	Graded separately; Final Project Rubric

Final Project Rubric

Guidelines for Submission: Your final research paper must be 15–20 pages in length, double-spaced, utilize 12-point Times New Roman font, and adhere to the latest MLA guidelines for formatting and citing sources. For more information on MLA style and how to cite, access the [MLA style guide from the library](#).

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (90%)	Needs Improvement (70%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Writing Plan: Two Works [LIT-652-01]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and rationale for choosing each is exceptionally clear and contextualized	Identifies two works of global literature that will be used to write the research paper and describes rationale for choosing each	Identifies two works of global literature that will be used to write the research paper, but rationale for choosing each is cursory or illogical	Does not identify two works of global literature that will be used to write the research paper	4.8
Writing Plan: Tone [LIT-652-05]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description shows a deep interpretation of how tone can represent feelings about a culture	Describes the tone in which these texts present their culture	Describes the tone in which these texts present their culture, but description is cursory or lacks clarity	Does not describe the tone in which these texts present their culture	6.4
Writing Plan: Impacted [LIT-652-02]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and overview offers keen insight into how these texts have impacted their culture	Provides a brief overview of how these texts have impacted their culture	Provides a brief overview of how these texts have impacted their culture, but overview is cursory or lacks clarity	Does not provide a brief overview of how these texts have impacted their culture	6.4
Writing Plan: Argument [LIT-652-04]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and argument demonstrates a nuanced understanding of the subject matter	Presents the argument that will be supported throughout the research paper	Presents the argument that will be supported throughout the research paper, but argument is cursory or illogical	Does not present the argument that will be supported throughout the research paper	3.2
Writing Plan: Thought Process [LIT-652-04]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and offers keen insight into the thought process that led to this argument	Describes the thought process that led to this argument	Describes the thought process that led to this argument, but description is cursory or lacks clarity	Does not describe the thought process that led to his argument	3.2
Writing Plan: Parts [LIT-652-04]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description exhibits a nuanced understanding of how the text can support the argument	Describes the parts of each text that will be focused on to support the argument	Describes the parts of each text that will be focused on to support the argument, but description is cursory or lacks clarity	Does not describe the parts of each text that will be focused on to support the argument	3.2
Writing Plan: Literary Theory [LIT-652-01]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and justification provides robust contextual support	Determines which literary theory will be applied to these texts and justifies the response	Determines which literary theory will be applied to these texts, but justification is cursory or illogical	Does not determine which literary theory will be applied to these texts	4.8

Writing Plan: Secondary Resources [LIT-652-03]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description of reliability is exceptionally clear and contextualized	Locates secondary resources that will be used to support the argument and claims, and describes why each is reliable	Locates secondary resources that will be used to support the argument and claims, but secondary sources are misaligned or description of reliability is cursory or lacks clarity	Does not locate secondary resources that will be used to support the argument and claims	6.4
Writing Plan: Support [LIT-652-03]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description exhibits a nuanced understanding of how the resources can support the argument	Briefly describes how each resource will be used to support the argument	Briefly describes how each resource will be used to support the argument, but description is cursory or lacks clarity	Does not briefly describe how each resource will be used to support the argument	6.4
Introduction: Works [LIT-652-02]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and overview is exceptionally clear and contextualized	Constructs an overview of the works of global literature that will be analyzed in the research paper	Constructs an overview of the works of global literature that will be analyzed in the research paper, but overview is cursory or lacks clarity	Does not construct an overview of the works of global literature that will be analyzed in the research paper	6.4
Introduction: Thesis [LIT-652-04]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates a sophisticated approach to crafting a thesis	Crafts an original thesis that clearly states the argument and sets the tone for the rest of the research paper	Crafts an original thesis that states the argument, but thesis lacks clarity or does not clearly set the tone for the rest of the research paper	Does not craft an original thesis that clearly states the argument and sets the tone for the rest of the research paper	3.2
Body: Intent [LIT-652-04]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and construction exhibits exceptional focus and flow	Constructs multiple paragraphs that are focused, clearly state their intent, and move logically from one to the other	Constructs multiple paragraphs, but paragraphs lack focus or clarity, or movement from one to the other is illogical	Does not construct multiple paragraphs that are focused, clearly state their intent, and move logically from one to the other	3.2
Body: Interpretation [LIT-652-01]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and exhibits a nuanced understanding of the text	Expands upon the interpretation of each text and introduces key parts of each that will be focused on throughout the research paper	Expands upon the interpretation of each text, but does not introduce key parts or introduction to key parts that will be focused on is cursory or lacks clarity	Does not expand upon the interpretation of each text or introduce key parts of each	4.8
Body: Culture [LIT-652-02]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and offers keen insight into how the texts have impacted global culture	Analyzes changes in culture and uses evidence to support claims	Analyzes changes in culture but does not use evidence to support claims	Does not analyze changes in culture	6.4

Body: Ideals and Beliefs [LIT-652-05]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and interpretation masterfully supports claims with evidence	Interprets how these texts have either adopted or rejected cultural ideals and beliefs, and supports claims with examples from text	Interprets how these texts have either adopted or rejected cultural ideals and beliefs, but interpretation is cursory or not supported with examples from text	Does not interpret how these texts have either adopted or rejected cultural ideals and beliefs	6.4
Body: Secondary Resources [LIT-652-03]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and masterfully integrates resources with ideas and claims	Integrates secondary resources throughout the body paragraphs to support ideas and claims	Integrates secondary resources throughout the body paragraphs to support ideas and claims, but integration is cursory or secondary resources are inappropriate	Does not integrate secondary resources throughout the body paragraphs	6.4
Conclusion: Key Points [LIT-652-01]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and is exceptionally clear and concise	Re-articulates interpretations and summarizes the key points	Re-articulates interpretations and summarizes the key points, but re-articulation or summarization is cursory or lacks clarity	Does not re-articulate interpretations or summarize the key points	4.8
Conclusion: Cultural Ideals [LIT-652-05]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and summary is exceptionally clear and concise	Summarizes the light in which these texts present their cultural ideals and beliefs	Summarizes the light in which these texts present their cultural ideas and beliefs, but summary is cursory or lacks clarity	Does not summarize the light in which these texts present their cultural ideals and beliefs	6.4
Conclusion: Universal Insights [LIT-652-04]	Meets “Proficient” criteria and masterfully distills key points from the research paper	Articulates universal insights about the argument through a theoretical lens	Articulates universal insights about the argument through a theoretical lens, but articulation is cursory or illogical	Does not articulate universal insights about the argument through a theoretical lens	3.2
Articulation of Response	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	4
Total					100%