

HUM 320: Research and Writing in the Humanities - Utopia and Dystopia
Department of Comparative Humanities
University of Louisville
Spring 2021

Final Research Paper: Instructions

The final research paper in the class will comprise elements of all three sections of the class: argumentation, comparison, and library/online research.

Please choose one of the following topics:

- Women's/Feminist utopias and/or dystopias
- Black/African American utopias and/or dystopias
- LGBT/Queer utopias and/or dystopias
- Environmental utopias and/or dystopias
- Economic utopias and/or dystopias

(You are welcome to combine two of the topics into one, for example, writing about Black Feminist Utopias and/or Dystopias)

The paper shall present an argument on the topic, by comparing two artifacts of different kinds (book, film, poem, painting, photograph, sculpture, etc.) and their meaning for questions of utopia and dystopia.

1. **Begin by conducting research in the library catalogue.** Search for sources on the topic. After reviewing and examining all the available sources, decide about seven sources you would like to use in the paper: they can be books, book chapters, and journal articles. You may use ebooks, electronic resources, or library books. (Please note that book reviews are not considered books, and cannot be used as a resource).

2. **Based on your research, decide which artifacts to discuss, and what your argument would be.** Review again all class materials regarding argumentative writing (argument, counter-argument, refutation) and comparative papers (frame of reference, grounds for comparison, organizational scheme). All these elements must be included in the paper.

3. **Then proceed to writing the paper.** You may begin by developing the paper outline. Present your argument clearly and coherently in the beginning of the paper. Proceed by discussing it through the comparison of the two artifacts and by using the research resources you have found. Pay attention to **structure** (organizational scheme: how to organize the paper; as well as argumentation structure) and develop a **reasonable outline**. Discuss all seven resources throughout the paper, and include references as instructed. Add a **bibliography** (works cited) at the end of the paper.

Paper length: 700-1000 words (shorter or longer paper cannot be accepted).

To be submitted on Blackboard, under “Assignments/Comparative Paper,” as **.doc or .docx file**

Due date: Fri., April 23, by 5 pm.

Good Luck!