

✂Final Literary Analysis Project

Project Brief

Background Information

Your final project for this class will include two main components: a **5-7 page (1,700-2,400 words) literary analysis paper on a novel of your choice that you read in the second half of the semester** and a **zine** as a form of a *multimodal literary analysis composition*. By this point in the semester, you will have had ample practice with short forms of literary analysis and close reading (Blips and 4As analysis), as well as the opportunity to think critically about the **materiality of literature, literary genre, and reading**. Now, you'll have the chance to experiment and engage with these class concepts on your own by creating a zine. Additionally, the process of creating this zine will help you to engage with the analytical concepts that are key to a successful academic literary analysis essay.

Project Objectives and Success Metrics

A successful zine and accompanying maker's statement will demonstrate mastery of the course learning outcomes. You can use the following objectives as a guide to ensure you're on track:

My literary analysis essay will:

- ☐ Be 5-7 pages (1,700 - 2,400 words) in length.
- ☐ Analyze **a novel of my choice** that I read as part of the second half of the course.
- ☐ Attend to both **literary form** and **content** in my analysis.
- ☐ Contain a strong **thesis** that articulates an arguable, persuasive, and original claim.
- ☐ Include **well-chosen textual evidence** that **strongly supports the thesis**.
- ☐ Be **well-organized**. This includes using **transitions** appropriately and correctly, **introducing the topic** in an interesting way, and including a **solid conclusion**.
- ☐ Be copyedited to contain **almost no errors**. Contain **sentence variety** and demonstrate a **strong knowledge of formal academic writing and MLA style guidelines**.

My Zine Will

- ☐ Address the way that my chosen text is embedded in a wider cultural context.
- ☐ Make connections between my text, our course, and social issues.
- ☐ Include language that is appropriate to the task.
- ☐ Attend to both **form and content** in my construction.
- ☐ Include pages addressing each one of the "big five" elements of literature
 - ☐ Plot
 - ☐ Character
 - ☐ Setting
 - ☐ Point of View
 - ☐ Theme

Project Timelines

Project Duration | March 7, 2023 ► May 2, 2023

Key Milestones & Deliverables

- ☐ [Project Launch \(March 7, 2023\)](#)
- ☐ [Zines Analysis in Class \(March 16, 2023\)](#)
- ☐ [Final Project Proposal \(March 23, 2023\)](#)
- ☐ [Find & Copy Research Library Session \(March 28, 2023\)](#)
- ☐ [Storyboards Due \(March 30, 2023\)](#)
- ☐ [Blip for Literary Analysis Essay \(April 13, 2023\)](#)
- ☐ [Literary Analysis Essay Draft \(April 20, 2023\)](#)

Project Launch (March 7, 2023)

We will review what this project entails in class, including due dates. Come with your questions and ideas! You can find a list of suggested titles in the “Resources” section below.

Zines Analysis in Class (March 16, 2023)

We will look at different zines together in class, exploring zines’ history and analyzing a few exemplars for both form and content. We’ll not only approach each zine as a **literary artifact**, but we’ll also look at each zine through a **rhetorical lens**, thinking about the craft moves the creator made. What about each zine is working? What ideas do we want to steal for our own work?

Short for “fanzines,” zines are, in the words of one scholar, “nothing if not motley” (J. A. Radway 12).¹ As a genre, they are defined more by their variety than any one particular unifying feature, varying widely in size, content, and material.

We will learn more about what, exactly, a zine is by examining examples of zines together in class.

Here are some things to think about:

- Content — What is this zine about? Is it mostly made up of text, images, or something else? Who is(are) the author(s)?
- Materials — How big is it? What kind of paper is made from? What colors, fonts? How is it held together? Does the material enhance the content? How?
- Audience — Who would read this? Who would not? How do you know?
- Process — What can you gather about how this zine was made from reading it or looking at it?

¹ Radway, Janice A., editor. *Girls, Zines, and the Miscellaneous Production of Subjectivity in an Age of Unceasing Circulation*. University of Minnesota, 2001.

Final Project Proposal (March 23, 2023)

We've spent some time exploring zines together to figure out what they say and how they are saying it. You've begun some preliminary research to think about which text you might want to explore and how you might represent that text in the zine form. Now, you're going to formalize some of your ideas by getting them down on paper.

In a single-spaced document, please address the following information about your proposed zine. Keep in mind— you are not beholden to any of these things! Your ideas can and likely will change. That's not only okay, it's an expected part of the process.

Writing up all this information serves a few purposes:

- Allows you to clarify your plan
- Gives me an opportunity to respond to your work in progress, including offering suggestions to help you with this work

Components of Your Zine Proposal

☐ **Content:**

- ☐ What will your zine be about? What *themes* in your chosen text do you anticipate addressing?
- ☐ What do you think the title of your zine will be?
- ☐ How will your zine engage with and connect to the themes of this class?
- ☐ How do you anticipate meeting the requirement to include elements of the “big five” for literary analysis (plot, character, setting, point of view, theme)

☐ **Materials:**

- ☐ Bindings: How will you bind your zine? Will use staples, tape, string, rubber bands, folding...?
- ☐ Paper: What type of paper will your zine be made of? Think about the color, weight, size, and texture.
- ☐ Printing: What will your printing look like? Will you print in black and white? In color? A mixture of the two?
- ☐ Extras: Will you put glitter stickers, washi tape or anything extra on your zine?

☐ **Format:**

- ☐ Size: What will be the size of your finished zine?
- ☐ Total Pages: How many pages will you use?
- ☐ Design: How much of your zine will be text? How much will be images? How will these two components work together? Will you use collage, pen and ink? Will you use any digital components? What will your margins look like?
- ☐ Layout: Do you plan to layout your zine by hand or on the computer (or a combination of both)? Where will you fold your zine?

☐ **Circulation**

- ☐ Copy Count: How many copies will you make? (You must make a minimum of one per person in this class and two copies for the professor).
- ☐ Distribution Beyond Our Classroom: Will you distribute beyond our classroom? How?
- ☐ Production Cost: Design choices you make about your zine will influence its production cost— either in materials, labor, or time. For example, color will cost more than black & white, heavier weight paper will cost more than lighter weight paper, etc. Think about: the number of pages, the number of copies, expenses for materials, access to tools, methods of reproduction, means of distribution.

Find & Copy Research Library Session (March 28, 2023)

The Find & Copy Research Activity is based on the work of [Jason Luther](#) in his “Self-Publishing” Course.

Before we begin working on creating our own zines, we’re going to spend some time doing research in the library. However, the research that we do might look and feel a little bit different from what you’re used to— we’re going to go on a scavenger hunt! Zinesters (you are all zinesters now!) often use *found material* (images collected or purchased from junk shops) to create their zines. While we don’t have a junk shop on campus, we do have something potentially even better to find interesting images that can amplify your ideas for the zine or spark new directions for your creative work— [O’Neill Library!](#) During our class session, you’re going to have time to explore, search, and collect as many images from the library that you can to use in your zine production.

Step One: Brainstorm Key Terms and Make a Plan

Think of key terms that are related to the zine that you plan to create. You can use the online catalog to find sections of the library with books or materials that connect to your zine ideas. Once you find a section in the library with books connected to your interests, consider looking at other books in the same location. The library organizes books by subject, so you will likely find other books related to your interests by proximity.

Step Two: Practice Patience, Compassion, and Gratitude | Embrace the Journey

A huge part of the research process involves exploration. Sometimes, you come up with ideas or find the exact source you didn’t even know that you were looking for by **serendipity**. Allow yourself to be open to finding topics and books that you might not have considered before entering the library. Show yourself compassion if this process is taking longer than you thought that it would— the information and ideas that you need will find you. Express **gratitude** to the librarians and library staff members who help you. They’re extremely knowledgeable experts who are happy to help you navigate the library. Once you pull a book, do not put it back on the shelf. You’ll want to return it to the librarian desk or the book return and allow the professionals to reshelve it.

Step Three: Scan/Save/Print Your Findings

Once you find material that you wish to collect for use in your zine, you have a few options:

- You can photocopy the material you wish to use (keeping in mind the cost to photocopy)
- You can scan the material you wish to use and then print that material later. If you scan the material, you might be able to save some money by cropping images and manipulating them so that you can maximize what you are able to print on a single page.

Step Four: Submit Your Work

Submit a document that shows TANGIBLE examples of what you’ve found (photos or scans). Also, respond to the following questions:

1. What did you learn through this experience?
2. What surprised you?
3. What delighted you?
4. How was this type of research different than what you usually experience?
5. What are your next steps given the work you’ve done with this?

Storyboards Due (March 30, 2023)

Before you start making your zine, you'll submit a storyboard as a prototype. You'll receive feedback on this in class and from me, your instructor. You can create your storyboard digitally or using paper and pen/pencil. The idea is to get an understanding of the **organization** and **structure** of your zine. How will you build your argument? On which page will you put different components of your content? Do you have ideas for visual elements you plan to include at this point?

This is **one example** of how you could set up a storyboard for your zine. Each box represents a page of your zine.

	Cover
1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12
13	14
15	16
17	18
Back cover	

Blip for Literary Analysis Essay (April 13, 2023)

A strong literary analysis essay will include **several blips, linked together around a common theme**. As a reminder, a blip is:

Reading occurs at several speeds, from speed-reading (devouring a detective novel to find out who committed the crime, or scanning assigned reading right before class) to slow savoring (enjoying the language, relishing a complicated passage) to analytical re-reading (hunting for mentions of birds in a novel to see if they form a meaningful pattern across the text). In this class, I want us to find time to experiment with all of these modes and speeds. One way to be sure to do this as you make your way through assigned reading is to be on the hunt for “blips” – moments that arrest your attention and slow down your reading process, calling for further analysis. These moments might be moments of confusion: a question about historical context or the meaning of a word, or a phrase or character name that seems out of place. They might be moments of realization: a pattern you begin noticing across a whole work, for instance. We will call these moments “blips.”

You will bring at least one of these blips to class for feedback on this date.

Literary Analysis Essay Draft (April 20, 2023)

Along with your zine, you'll submit a traditional literary analysis essay. This is a required component of Literature Core. You'll have the opportunity to workshop this draft in class with your peers.

Remember, a successful literary analysis essay will:

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- ☐ Attend to both **literary form** and **content** in my analysis.
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- ☐ Be copyedited to contain **almost no errors**. Contain **sentence variety** and demonstrate a **strong knowledge of formal academic writing and MLA style guidelines**.

Zine Fest (May 2, 2023)

You will share your zine with your peers in class and receive copies of your peers' zines. You'll engage in a peer feedback session in class.

Resources

Some Places to Find Zines of Your Own:

- [Antiquated Future](#)
- [Skylight Books](#)
- [Quimby's](#)
- [Sarah Mirk](#)
- [Outlet PDX](#)
- [Bluestockings Cooperative](#)
- [Desert Island Comics](#)
- [Printed Matter](#)
- [Downtown Books and News](#)
- [Powell's City of Books](#)
- [Elliott Bay Book Company](#)
- [Chapman University's Zine Archive](#)
- [LCC Zine Collection](#)
- [Zines & Things](#)
- [Portland Zine Symposium 2022](#)
- [Barnard Zine Library](#)

Some Online Zine Tutorials

- [Getting Started Videos: Mini Zines and More](#)
- [Make zines!](#)

Suggested Independent Texts

Each title will link to the Google Book page for the text, which will give you the original publication date, genres, and a brief description of the book.

- [Sula by Toni Morrison](#)
- [Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys](#)
- [Carmilla by Sheridan Le Fanu](#)
- [The Little Sister by Raymond Chandler](#)
- [Sharp Objects by Gillian Flynn](#)
- [The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson](#)
- [Fates and Furies by Lauren Groff](#)
- [Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia](#)
- [I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sánchez](#)
- [Wicked by Gregory Maguire](#)
- [Tracy Flick Can't Win by Tom Perrotta](#)
- [Codename Villanelle by Luke Jennings](#)
- [A Song of Ice and Fire by George R.R. Martin](#)
- [We Need to Talk About Kevin by Lionel Shriver](#)
- Something you propose that Noël approves