

Synthesis Paper Assignment

DUE DATES:

Thursday, October 23rd – draft annotated bibliography (bring 5 copies to class).

Tuesday, November 18th – abstract & detailed, annotated outline (bring 5 copies).

Thursday, December 4th - first draft and revised annotated bibliography (bring 5 copies to class). The draft needs to be at least five pages long, typed, and double-spaced.

Thursday, December 11th - final paper is due in your portfolio

A significant amount of time this quarter will be dedicated to writing a polished, 10-15 page synthesis paper (plus an annotated bibliography). The thesis driven essay should effectively reflect not only your understanding of texts read this quarter. You are expected to demonstrate an ability to integrate what you've learned in some novel way. You are not required to mention every seminar, workshop, and lecture reading assignment. However, you should weave into your argument at least five of the required texts. You are strongly discouraged from doing additional research and reading outside the course materials to support your argument.

It will be very important that you keep good notes as you are reading required materials. If you are not marking up your texts, you will find it critical to keep detailed notes on key passages including page numbers. Through a series of writing workshops, you will hone the skills needed to write your paper. These workshops will also help you spread your work throughout the 10-weeks. By **December 4th** you will have completed a draft of at least five pages, which is typed and double-spaced. You will revise this draft in response to feedback from peers. Your faculty will comment on the final version turned in with your portfolio.

Your final paper must be 10 to 15 pages-long, not including the bibliography. It must be typed, double-spaced and in a size 12 font that is easy to read such as Times, Palatino, or Helvetica. You must turn your final hard copy in with the copies of the various assignments that were commented on by your peers and faculty (including the abstract, annotated bibliographies, and draft). Remember to craft a title that informs the reader about the contents and/or argument.

Your annotated bibliography must include all the required readings of the quarter, including those for seminars, workshops and lectures. The annotations need to be substantive (see Storey pp. 15-16 for examples). You must cite all your sources of information following Turabian or *Chicago Manual of Style* (see Storey pp. 36-43 and the Evergreen library homepage). The reference librarians and the Writing Center can also assist you with this. Demonstrating the ability to cite sources correctly is a requirement of the assignment. When referring to organisms you must use scientific nomenclature correctly. The names must be italicized not underlined. They must be spelled correctly. The genus and species are always used together, hence the term binomial nomenclature.