Final Assignment

Prof. Licastro

Spring 2015

**Speculative Fiction**

Through works of fiction, theoretical texts, journalistic articles, film adaptations, and educational videos we have encountered visions of the future from a variety of perspectives. The visionaries behind these texts are not simply providing us with a glimpse into their imaginations; these predictions are supported by research. Now, it is your turn to envision our future. For your final you will create a project that presents a fictional representation of our future based on the trajectories of current technological development. You must focus your vision to one area of interest, research that topic, and then design a near-future depiction of that evolution. This “speculative fiction” project should present an argument for the impending benefits and dangers we may face based on the development of the technologies you are depicting. The final product should be informative and educational, and show clear evidence of research. You can do this through a variety of mediums – short story, short film, TED-talk style presentation, mapping project, timeline project, etc., or a combination of these modes. To help you accomplish this task, you will be working in three groups of five. The work will be broken down into the following steps:

Propose Topic and Formats: **Due on 4/10**

* Compose a short description of the topic – meaning the specific technologies and issues you are interested in researching – as well as the formats you wish to work in (for example, express your familiarity and interest in writing a creative story, producing/acting in a short film, creating a map or timeline, ect)
* Post this proposal under tag “topic” and category “final.” Please also add a tag(s) that expresses your topic (for example, data, surveillance, reproduction, robotics, gender, disability, etc).

Choose groups and write contracts: **Due 4/13 and 4/20**

* Before class time on Monday 4/13 you must read every proposal posted and select two proposals you wish to work on. You should select these two based on the similarity to the topics and formats you proposed. The goal is to group people together by interest.
* At the end of class on Monday you will divide yourselves into three groups. Outside of class you will write group contracts describing your project briefly and dividing the work between the group members. I suggest taking on specific roles – project manager, technical developer, researcher, writer, editor, designer, etc. Provide specific deadlines and meeting dates as part of this contract. Send this contract as a Google Doc to your professor for approval before class on **4/20.**

Research (Annotated Bibliographies): **Due 4/22**

* Each of you must provide resources and research relevant to your topic in order to contribute to your group project. This process should start before you post your topic and will continue until the final edits are made. (Add all sources to Zotero!)
* As evidence of this research you will each post three annotated bibliography entries to our course site. We will go over the format in class, but these should each be in a separate post marked as the category “annotated bibliography” tagged with your team name (TBD) and the appropriate tags for the source.

Drafts and revisions: **Due 4/22 and 4/27**

* You will bring a draft of your project to class on 4/22 to work on with your group. In this class you have the time to edit your group members work and polish your draft before sending it to your professor for feedback by 4/27.

Final Project: **Due 5/4**

* Each group must post their final project to the blog under the category “final” before class time on **5/4 – NO EXECEPTIONS**
* The presentations will be 15 minutes in length, with 5 minutes for questions. Each group member should have an active role in the presentation. Be prepared to present on 5/4 (with 5/6 as our fall back date in case of emergency).
* Your audience will evaluate these presentations, and audience participation will be graded based on these responses.

*Information on the final reflection paper will be provided on 5/4.*

Final projects will earn one grade, not individual grades. The project should showcase your collaboration. It will be graded on the following criteria:

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| Informational | The project should show ample evidence of research. The project should impart knowledge/educate your audience. | 20 |
| Provocative | This project should raise important questions. What is at stake here? | 20 |
| Argumentative | This project must present a clear argument on the benefits and drawbacks of technical evolution. | 20 |
| Focused | This project should focus on presenting one topic in a clearly and thoroughly. This information presented should be deep not shallow, specific not general, and organized not disconnected | 20 |
| Collaborative | This should be a group effort, not the point of view of one individual or many separate visions sewn together. Strive for coherence. Make sure everyone has a role and that these efforts are represented. | 20 |

Each group will determine the specific elements of this grade. The elements of each project will be outlined in the group contract. This contract will be considered when I grade the final projects, as will the evaluations of your peers.