

Course instructor

Kevin King

Contact information

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Office hours

Meetings by appointment

Class time & location

Tuesdays, 9:00am – 12:00pm, B124

Journal reflection and writing tips

When engaging in reflecting on each of the readings, consider some of the following criteria that can allow you to have an internal dialogue that leads to critical analysis:

- ☛ What is the motivation for the writer to engage with this research? Is it out of their own personal interest?
- ☛ Who are they affiliated with?
- ☛ Are they involved in professional or academic practice?
- ☛ What do they benefit to gain from the research and publishing it?
- ☛ What was the main argument that the writer presented?
- ☛ What were the key technological factors of the time period discussed? These might be mentioned by the writer or not.
- ☛ What were the key socio-economic factors of the time period discussed? These might be mentioned by the writer or not.

Your writing should remain formal – in the first or third person – and should state your concepts clearly and in a straightforward manner. It is a good idea to make a point form list of the key concepts that you observed in the given text you are discussing, as well as your own thoughts and ideas surrounding the topic.

For examples of a formal writing style, and using the first or third person voice, please consult the writing guide on the BDES server.

LITERATURE REFLECTION JOURNAL

The value in studying history is not only to be aware of events that have occurred in our collective past, but to cultivate an understanding of *why* and *how* events unfolded, and under what conditions various factors surrounding a historical subject were formed. By engaging in critical reflections of historical models as designers, we in turn cultivate strategies for critically reflecting on issues and challenges that arise in our own time, and provide us with insights into how we can understand problems that we face in our work today.

To build and exercise your critical analysis and reflection skills, you will prepare weekly journal entries throughout the duration of the course from a variety of typography researchers and practitioners. Each week's reading will be related to the general subject of study of the lecture for that given week, and will offer a focused or unique view of the overall concepts discussed in class. The goal of the reflections is to engage in a critical discourse with the content in the text, and with the way in which the writer presents their arguments surrounding their research. You should also offer your own opinion on the topic that is discussed.

Each reading should be roughly **500 words** in length, however, the length of your entries may vary in length. In some reflections, you may be able to present your observations and arguments very concisely, while in others it may take more words. What matters most is identifying the key concepts in the readings, providing your counter arguments (opinions with justification), and noting how the concepts and/or lessons presented in the text offer us insights into solving design challenges today. You can include figures (images or your sketches) that you cite in your text, **and any writing, ideas or images that are not your own must be properly cited and footnoted wherever they occur in your journal entry text.** You should also have a bibliography to list any image sources and citations on a separate page at the end of each entry.

Additionally, be open to the differing viewpoints and research methods of various writers. While not all of the writers' styles will necessarily appeal to you, it is valuable to be exposed to a multitude of research methodologies, which deepen your own repository of critical reflection skills.

TOOLS

To aid in the creation of your readings journal, an InDesign template file has been provided to help in the layout of your content. Please feel free to change aspects of the InDesign file as you wish, but be sure to keep the layout structure related to the purpose of the document, which is to provide a platform for the coherent organization and navigation of journal entries.

The InDesign file has been constructed to include both character and paragraph styles that you can employ easily within the text that

you write. Please use proper typographic style for text – as outlined in *TypeTips* – which will be provided in class and is available on the BDES server in our course's folder.

A reading list will be provided at the beginning of the first lecture, along with the first reading. Each week's reading will be made available on the BDES server at the beginning of each class.

DUE

Your literary reflection journal entries are due in two parts (worth 15% each):

SET ONE 28 January 2020

SET TWO 31 March 2020