**HIST 326 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**Prof. Daniel Gorman Jr., RIT, Spring 2022**

Working in pairs (or trios if necessary), you will conduct an oral history interview with a past participant in the Hill Cumorah Pageant. Your work will consist of three parts, which are outlined below—an initial list of ten questions for your interviewee, an audio recording of your interview, and a text transcript of your interview.

The materials you produce will go online at <http://cumorahlegacy.omeka.net/>, unless (a) you tell me via email by February 8, 2022, that you do not want your work to go online, and/or (b) your interviewee places restrictions on the interview materials.

Note: The students in each pair/trio will receive the same grade—unless it comes to my attention that one person did not contribute. In that case, the student who did the work will receive the grade, and the other student will receive an automatic failing grade on the project.

**Part One: List of Questions**

**Due Thursday, February 17, 2022, 11 AM ET**

Drawing on what you’ve learned from Matthew Bowman’s book *The Mormon People*, Jerry Argetsinger and Brian Surprenant’s presentations, and materials about the Hill Cumorah Pageant, you will create an initial **list of ten questions** for your interview subject. Be sure to write enough questions to fill a 25- to 40-minute interview.

Sample topics that you might discuss with your interviewee(s) include:

* Personal background: Hometown, education, profession, etc.
* Involvement in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
* How they became involved in the Hill Cumorah Pageant.
* Role(s) they performed in the Hill Cumorah Pageant. Examples: Acting, working behind-the-scenes, crowd management, refreshments, security/parking, missionary work, and/or advertising.
* Memories of the Hill Cumorah Pageant.
* Favorite Book of Mormon story featured in the Pageant.
* The Pageant’s cultural significance.
* The Pageant as a part of the Rochester area and Western New York’s culture.
* Tourism and the Hill Cumorah Pageant.
* The end of the Pageant, including the Church’s decision in 2018 to conclude its run and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Formatting Requirements:

* Your questions should be double-spaced and typed in 12-point font.
* Include the names of everyone in your group at the top of your document.
* Your document must include ten questions for your interviewee(s).
* You do not need to include citations (Works Cited section, footnotes, or parenthetical citations) for this assignment.

Your questions are due at the start of class (11 AM ET) on Thursday, February 17. You will submit your questions via MyCourses. I will return your questions with comments. This assignment is worth 10% of your semester grade.

Note: Only one member of your group needs to submit the questions document on MyCourses. The “Group” feature in MyCourses will show the work and accompanying grade for all group members.

**Part Two: Oral History Audio Recording**

**Due Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 11 AM ET**

For Part Two of the project, you will meet with your interview subject either on Zoom or at an in-person location of your choice. You will interview your subject for a duration of 25 to 40 minutes and make an **audio recording** of the interview. **If you conduct the interview in person, be sure to record your interview in a quiet place to reduce background noise**.

It is fine if you do not discuss every question on your initial list. Oral history interviews tend to go in unexpected directions as the interviewee tells their story. It is better to follow up on an interesting comment than to stick to a rigid list of questions.

Assignment Requirements:

* The audio recording is between 25 and 40 minutes in length.
* **You must submit a signed consent form along with your recording.**
  + File Name Format: Include the last names of everyone in your group, the full name(s) of your interviewee(s), and the date. Example: Anderson\_Brown\_JohnColeConsentForm\_03-02-2022.docx
* Please submit your interview as an audio file saved in MP3, M4A/AAC, or WAV format.
  + File Name Format: Include the last names of everyone in your group, the full name(s) of your interviewee(s), and the date. Example: Anderson\_Brown\_JohnColeInterview\_03-02-2022.mp3
* If you record your interview with Zoom, the app will automatically create a video file and an MP3 audio file. You do not need to submit the video file.
* You will submit your interview audio recording AND the consent form via the following RIT Google Drive folder: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1D0xb4PAWidmWhjAyz2Sj9Ql7Zbotv_0q?usp=sharing>.

Your recording is due at the start of class (11 AM ET) on Tuesday, April 5. This assignment is worth 15% of your semester grade.

**Update, 3/13/2022:** Students must respond to their group’s introductory email thread (consisting of interviewers, interviewees, and Prof. Gorman) by 11:59 PM on Thursday, March 17. This way, there will be time for Prof. Gorman and community contact Bentley Hutchings to follow up with interviewees before the assignment due date. Failure to respond to introductory emails by the end of the day on 3/17 will result in five points being deducted from each group’s final audio recording grade.

**Part Three: Oral History Transcript**

**Due Thursday, April 14, 2022, 11 AM ET**

For part three, you will produce a text **transcript** of your interview. This transcript will accompany your audio recording on the Hill Cumorah Legacy Project website. By creating a transcript, you will make your transcript **searchable** and **accessible to website visitors of all abilities**.

You must use one of the following apps (or another equivalent app) to produce an initial transcript:

* Descript: <https://www.descript.com/transcription>.
* Express Scribe: <https://www.nch.com.au/scribe/index.html>.
* Otter.ai: <https://otter.ai/pricing>.
* RIT Guide to Captioning Panopto Videos: <https://wiki.rit.edu/display/CourseVideo/Captioning+Course+Videos>.
* Panopto Guide to Manual Captions: <https://support.panopto.com/s/article/Manually-Caption-Your-Videos>.
* Temi: <https://www.temi.com/>.

Assignment Requirements:

* Once you have produced your initial transcript in a transcription app, copy the text into a word processing app.
* File Name Format: Include the last names of everyone in your group, the full name(s) of your interviewee(s), and the date.
  + Example: Anderson\_Brown\_JohnColeTranscript\_03-02-2022.docx
* Your transcript should be double-spaced and typed in 12-point font.
* At the start of the transcript document, Include a title for your interview with the interviewee’s name and the date of recording.
* Below the title, include the names of everyone in your group and the name of the transcription app you used.
* Identify all speakers throughout the transcript with their full names.
* Add timestamps in five-minute increments (00:00, 05:00, etc.) throughout the transcript.
* Proofread your transcript for grammar errors.
* Remove filler words like “like,” “um,” and “uh” from the transcript.
* Add any relevant hyperlinks to the transcript.
* After the text of your transcript, provide Dublin Core Metadata categories (listed below) about your interview.

Your final transcript is due at the start of class (11 AM ET) on Thursday, April 14. You will submit your transcript and Dublin Core information as a single .docx file via MyCourses. This assignment is worth 10% of your semester grade.

Note: Only one member of your group needs to submit the transcript document on MyCourses. The “Group” feature in MyCourses will show the work and accompanying grade for all group members.

Dublin Core Metadata Categories for Your Oral History Interview

Title: A name given to the resource.

* A title for your interview with the interviewee’s name and the date of recording.

Subject: The topic of the resource.

* Aside from “Hill Cumorah Project,” you could list any topics that came up repeatedly during the interview.

Description: An account of the resource.

* For the Hill Cumorah Legacy Project, this will be a paragraph that is at least 100 words in length, introducing your interviewee and summarizing the content of the interview.

Creator: An entity primarily responsible for making the resource.

* The “Creator” category should include the interviewee’s or interviewees’ name(s) as well as the interviewers’ names.

Source: A related resource from which the described resource is derived.

* You can simply write “Hill Cumorah Legacy Project” here.

Date: A point or period of time associated with an event in the lifecycle of the resource.

* This is the date on which you conducted your interview.

Contributor: An entity responsible for making contributions to the resource.

* The names of your group members go here.

Rights: Information about rights held in and over the resource.

* If the interviewee places no restrictions on the interview, then you will write: “Produced under an oral history collaborative deed of gift agreement with no restrictions and nonexclusive license.”
* If the interviewee places restrictions on the interview, then you will write: “Produced under an oral history collaborative deed of gift agreement with restrictions and nonexclusive license.”

Format: The file format, physical medium, or dimensions of the resource.

* List the file format (MP3, M4A/AAC, or WAV) in which you recorded your interview.

Language: A language of the resource.

* This will probably be English unless another language is used during part of the interview.

Identifier: An unambiguous reference to the resource within a given context.

* This will be the file name(s) of the photo(s) of your object that you upload.