



## Portfolio

Save **ALL** written assignments in this class. I elaborate on this as the semester proceeds.

## Notes on the Calendar

**ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.** As the course proceeds we usually change the schedule. I say *we* because I take input from students seriously. However, if you miss class you miss the chance to help shape the class, and more importantly, you miss changes to the schedule. It is your responsibility to find out any information you miss.

## Class Conduct

Class atmosphere will be quite relaxed. Just a few (sarcastic) guidelines to make sure things are smooth:

- Dozing off in class is not a cardinal sin, but be sure to make a spectacle of yourself.
- I do not take role, so clearly this means that I do not care if you come to class. In fact, do not come to class at all, everything will be fine.
- Talking during lectures is forgivable, but talking about useless stuff is not forgivable.
- Eating and drinking in class should be reduced to a minimum. It is not forbidden, but please make sure that you are as loud as possible so that you can disturb others with the noise and enticing aromas.

## Academic Integrity

Cheating, plagiarism, or any unethical academic behavior is not tolerated. It will be reported immediately to your Major Department and Student Services. See plagiarism policy [here](#) or at <http://www.uvu.edu/english/student/plagiarism.html>.

## Basic Resources

The following is a list (with active links) of some basic research corpora.

1. UVU library: <http://www.uvu.edu/library>
2. Library search engines: <http://www.uvu.edu/library/search/index.php>
3. Useful databases: JSTOR, MEDLINE, especially ACADEMIC SEARCH PREMIER
4. Cornell science archive: <http://www.arXiv.org>
5. UVU writing center: <http://www.uvsc.edu/owl>

# 1 Possible Research Topics

1. Symmetry and Fibonacci patterns in nature and art
2. Mathematics of probability (i.e., medicine, insurance, game shows, gambling, physics, marketing)
3. Encryption and security
4. Economics of personal and corporate debt
5. Biology of stem cells, e.g., differentiation and reverse engineering<sup>1</sup>
6. Quantum computers, quantum computation, and the theory of quantum consciousness
7. Science of alternative energy<sup>2</sup>
8. Biographical life of a scientist—Newton, Einstein, Galileo, Galois, Abels, Cantor, Turing, Boole, Godel. . . .
9. Philosophy of science, religion, etc. . . .
10. Literature and consciousness
11. Artificial Intelligence and Gaming
12. Gaming and Social Networks
13. Social Networking and ‘Hooking up’
14. War
15. Homosexuality: nature or nurture?
16. Does racism exist?

## 1.1 Comment

You should find something that engages you. Even topics you think might not be “allowed” for a college paper (e.g., I have had students write about such varied things as time-travel, medieval knights, Mayan calendar, alien life, *et cetera*). The point of attending University is to get the chance to have a *transformative experience*. You can have a good experience in this class, and do interesting research, if you pick topics that are really cool.

# 2 Citation formats, Organizations, Websites

- [Bedsford’s St. Martins Press](#) MLA, APA, Chicago, and other styles
- [Cornell University Library](#) MLA style guide
- [Purdue University Library](#) MLA style guide
- [Purdue University Library](#) APA style guide
- [UC Berkeley Library](#) MLA style guide

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<sup>1</sup>Many people write papers on this topic.

<sup>2</sup>Again, many people write on this subject.

- [Modern Language Society \(MLA\)](#)
- [American Medical Writers Association](#)
- [Association of Teachers of Technical Writing](#)
- [IEEE Professional Communication Society](#)
- [2009 IEEE Standards Style Manual](#)
- [National Association of Science Writers](#)
- [Society for Technical Communication](#)

### 3 Research

#### 3.1 Databases

- Research tools accessible at the [UVU-Library](#)
- [Research guides](#) by topic at UVU library
- [Electronic Encyclopedias and Dictionaries](#)
- JSTOR
- ScienceDirect
- ERIC
- Academic Search Premier
- Project Muse

#### 3.2 Other Links and Research Sources

- [Language Log](#)
- [MIT Press](#)
- [Cornell ArXiv](#)
- [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)
- Academic web pages of [professors](#) for downloadable papers<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Make sure these sites are connected to a University or College—as the example here shows, if you are on-line!