

## RLG312H Video Project Instructions

### Assignment:

The goal of this group project is to give you an opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of the course material and subject matter in a novel way. Together with your partners you will create a ten-minute video of your interview with one scholar of religion regarding one of their written texts (e.g., a published article). Your video should provide an introduction to the scholar in general, as well as a critical discussion of the sample of his or her work you have been given. Imagine that the video will appear on a departmental website used to give outsiders a sense of **who** this scholar is, **what** kind of work s/he does, **how** and **why** s/he does it the way s/he does, and why this work **matters**.

### Assignment Components:

This assignment is made up of six components, which must be done as a group (G) or individually (I) or either (G/I) depending on what each student decides.

Component	Value	Due Date
1. Practice Video (G/I)	5%	October 26
2. Leading Class Discussion (G)	5%	Various
3. Pre-Discussion Write-Up (G/I)	10%	Before class discussion
4. Post-Discussion Write-Up (G/I)	20%	One week after class discussion
5. Final Video (G/I)	50%	November 14
6. Assessment (I)	10%	November 14

- 1. Practice Video:** This can be on any subject, and needs to be no longer than one minute long. The video will not be graded for quality, but simply according to whether or not it contains each of the following required elements:
  - Clear audio and video
  - Talking
  - Other sounds (e.g., music)
  - Text
  - Editing (at least one edit)
  - Camera movement
  - Clear beginning and ending
  - Citations to all sources used (e.g., music)
- 2. Leading class discussion:** Each group must present their summary of the text they have selected, along with at least one opinion about the text from each group member. Again, as long as all required elements are present, students will receive full marks for this component of the project.
- 3. Pre-discussion write-up:** This must contain: a summary of the article; a list of connections between the article and methods/theories from the course text; a list of questions to ask the author of the article (one question per student in the group); and an explanation for why each question is being asked. This write-up is due any time before the start of class when the discussion on that article is to take place. Late submissions will not be accepted, but will receive a grade of zero.

4. **Post-discussion write-up:** This is a revised version of the pre-discussion write-up, one that has taken into consideration feedback from the instructor (and, if relevant, comments made during the class discussion). It is due by 11:59pm one week after the class discussion. The late penalty is one mark (out of 20) per day late.
5. **Final video:** See below for details on the requirements and grading rubric. You must upload the video to at least one group member's UofT MyMedia page, **and email the video's URL to the instructor**, by 11:59pm on November 14. The late penalty is one mark (out of 50) per day late.
6. **Assessment:** Each student must complete an assessment form (posted on Blackboard), evaluating their own role in the project, as well as the role that each of their group members played. It must be uploaded to Blackboard by 11:59pm on November 14. The late penalty is one mark (out of 10) per day late.

### **Video Requirements:**

Your final video must be no more than **ten minutes** in length, and include:

- **Clear audio and video.** If you run into technical problems that render either or both element unclear, it is your responsibility to resolve these problems in whatever way you can. For instance, if the audio is too low, distorted, etc., you may wish to add subtitles to your film.
- **Editing.** Your film cannot simply consist of ten minutes of unedited film from start to finish. You will need to edit out material such as: unnecessary information, pauses, disruptions, etc. You will also need to use editing in order to construct a clear narrative.
- **Sounds** other than talking (e.g., music). See "Permission Required" (below).
- On-screen **text.** Examples of text that you might use could include: titles, subtitles, and questions.
- A sense of **narrative.** Your video must a clear beginning and ending. It must also provide a coherent, logical introduction to the scholar and his/her work to someone unfamiliar with it.
- **Citations** to all sources used (e.g., music). These can appear in the "credits" sequence of your film. Instructions on documenting multimedia sources using the Chicago Manual of Style method are available here: <http://rdc.libguides.com/content.php?pid=209056&sid=1742083>

Here is a general guide to digital storytelling that you may find helpful in completing your project:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/audiovideo/sites/about/pages/howto.shtml>

### **Permission Required:**

- For *each* subject (or person) appearing on film, you must have a consent waiver. This form is available on Blackboard. Original consent waivers must be submitted to the instructor before the end of the course for you to receive credit for the assignment.
- If you wish to include copyrighted images or sounds in your film, **you must get permission from the copyright holder(s) to use their work.** This permission can be in the form of a letter or email, and again must be submitted to the instructor before the end of the course for you to receive credit for the assignment.

- You may choose to include images and/or sounds that are either copyright-free, or that allow usage under certain conditions without requiring permission from the copyright holder(s). A list of websites where such material can be obtained is provided below.

### **Images and Sounds:**

Remember that you must check the licensing rights on all images and sounds that you decide to include in your video. Many sites use the following Creative Commons license. **A few notes on terminology:**

- “Attribution” means: You let others copy, distribute, display, and perform your copyrighted work - and derivative works based upon it - but only if they give you credit.
- “Noncommercial” means: You let others copy, distribute, display, and perform your work - and derivative works based upon it - but for noncommercial purposes only.
- “No Derivative Works” means: You let others copy, distribute, display, and perform only verbatim copies of your work, not derivative works based upon it.
- “Share Alike” means: You allow others to distribute derivative works only under a license identical to the license that governs your work.

Here are some sites with copyright-free images and sounds. Again, if you use any material from these sites – or if you use your *own* images/sounds – **you must still provide a citation** in your final video.

Images:

- <http://www.bigfoto.com>
- <http://creativecommons.org/image/>
- <http://www.dreamstime.com>
- <http://www.everystockphoto.com>
- <http://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/>
- <http://www.thinkstockphotos.ca/?countrycode=CAN>
- <http://www.imageafter.com>
- <http://www.istockphoto.com>
- <http://www.morguefile.com>
- <http://www.openphoto.net>
- <http://pixelperfectdigital.com/galleries/>
- <http://www.sxc.hu>

Sounds:

- <http://creativecommons.org/audio/>
- <http://www.freeplaymusic.com>
- <http://www.freesound.org>
- <http://ghostnotes.blogspot.ca>
- <http://www.jamendo.com/en/>
- <http://magnatune.com>
- <http://www.opsound.org>
- <http://www.partnersinrhyme.com>

**Grading Rubric for Final Video:**

Note that the term “story” below refers to the notion that what you are creating with your video should in fact be a narrative of sorts. You are not simply putting together a collection of random statements from a scholar of religion. Your final video should have focus, direction, and meaning – it should, in other words, be a kind of story.

	<b>F (0-50)</b>	<b>D (50-59)</b>	<b>C (60-69)</b>	<b>B (70-79)</b>	<b>A (80-100)</b>
<b>Response to Task</b>	Does not address task. Fundamental errors in source documentation.	Contains few required elements. Many errors in source documentation.	Contains some required elements. Some errors in source documentation.	Contains most required elements. Few errors in source documentation.	Contains all required elements. No errors in source documentation.
<b>Critical Questions</b>	No attempt is made to pose critical questions.	Some critical aspects to the questions but focus is mostly on data.	Good questions in general, but some lack clarity or focus.	Several strong questions, a few weak ones.	Exceptional questions throughout; interview has strong critical focus.
<b>Structure</b> (“Storytelling”: pacing, titles, sequence of elements, etc.)	No sense of structure at all.	Video has uneven structure.	A definite sense of structure, but several problems remain.	Good structure throughout, allowing the story to unfold reasonably well.	Excellent structure; story is clear and interesting throughout.
<b>Editing</b>	Story was unedited.	Some signs of editing.	Interview was edited but still somewhat unbalanced.	Strong editing facilitates the storytelling.	Exceptional editing that presents the story in a clear and compelling manner.
<b>Images and Sounds</b>	None.	Poor choices and/or choppy transitions.	Acceptable choices overall, but some elements may be distracting and/or inappropriate.	Good choice/use of sounds and images helps the storytelling.	Exceptional choice/use of sound and images wholly appropriate to the narrative.
<b>Communication</b>	Often difficult to understand.	Moments of clarity, but many problems or errors throughout.	Fairly clear overall, but several problems or errors remain.	Key moments and ideas are very clear; some problems or errors are evident.	All aspects of form and content exceptionally clear; virtually no errors.