



Midterm Project Assignment

Objectives of the project:

1. Choose a work of art (broadly defined), designed object, or architectural design that you think has relevance to our understanding of human evolutionary history.
2. Analyze this artistic work through the lens of human evolutionary history:
 - In what ways does this work reflect an understanding of human evolution?
 - Is this understanding consistent with current theories of human evolution?
 - Based on insights from your analysis of this work, how can future work be improved by taking into account an understanding of human evolution?
3. Submit your critique as a written paper.
4. Prepare an abstract of your ideas for distribution to your classmates.
5. Present and discuss your ideas to the class.

Format and scope of the paper:

1. Please present your work in type-written, double-spaced format.
2. Produce at least three (3) and no more than six (6) pages of double-spaced text.
3. Provide an *Appendix* (does not count towards page minimum or maximum) that either presents images of the work you are critiquing or directs your instructor to relevant websites or other accessible media that show the work.
4. Reference all ideas that are not your own using a numbered bibliography. Both superscripts¹ and bracketed [2] citations are acceptable, but use a consistent format.

Abstracts for class discussion:

1. Your abstract will allow your fellow students to learn a little bit about your project before coming to class.
2. In a single paragraph less than 200 words, summarize your project.
3. Abstracts should be accompanied by 2-4 digital images of the work you are critiquing. Please embed these images into the abstract document.
4. Abstracts will be submitted along with your project via the *LMS*. Your instructor will be posting all student abstracts on the *LMS*.

Proposals:

You are required to submit a short project proposal by Tuesday, **February 15th**. All proposals will be through the *LMS* system. Your instructor will post comments on *LMS* letting you know whether the project proposal is approved; if the proposal is not approved, you should contact your instructor during office hours, by phone, or via email.

Citations:

1. Please use a standard bibliographical format and use it consistently.
2. Please be careful about web citations. Much of what is published on the web is unreliable. It is up to you to assess the validity of all your sources.
3. Internet references should be cited with a page title, a full URL address, and the date accessed. For example: Ecology for Architects Main Page, <http://sci177a.pratt.edu/index.html> Accessed 5-Feb-2007.

Submission of the project:

This project is due on Tuesday, **March 8th**. All work should be directly uploaded to the *Learning Management System* in *Adobe PDF* format. There is a 10% penalty per day of lateness.

How you will be graded:

Your grade will be primarily based on how well you meet the objectives stated above. In addition, your instructor will assess how well you expressed an understanding of human evolution. All written work is expected to use proper spelling and grammar, except where obvious and necessary creative liberties are being taken with the language. Please see the *LMS* for sample grading sheets that provide you with a precise idea of how you will be graded.

On academic honesty:

Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. All cases of suspected plagiarism will be turned over to the Registrar's office for potential referral to the academic judiciary. Please be careful to indicate the source of all ideas other than your own; this includes both direct quotes ("human evolution is the science of...") and paraphrasing of books, scientific papers, and websites. Careful citation makes you seem more authoritative in whatever you write.

Some helpful hints:

It is quite possible to write a brilliant paper that totally fails for this assignment. How? Well, if you do not address the specific requirements of this project, you will not receive a passing grade. Please make sure to look carefully at the *Objectives* above as you plan out what you will write.

Occasionally, students fail to understand the difference between the meaning of "human evolution" and the more general use of the word "evolution". Creative works can "evolve" -- change through time -- but simply chronicling how a particular body of creative work has changed will not meet the requirements for this paper. This is not to say that you cannot look at artwork that changes and relate it to what we know about human evolution: it's just that it is not enough to simply describe change in a body of creative work. Make sure that whatever you choose to critique can be related to topics in human evolution!