



Term Project Guidelines

The major independent assignment of this course is the production of a creative work that is informed by research into a topic or topics that are directly related to course content. This *Term Project* will be developed throughout the semester via an incremental process of planning, drafting, and refinement. This process emphasizes thoughtful conceptualization as a means of preparing to write and make.

Project objectives:

1. Research scientific work that is related to one or more of the *Key Questions* that form the basis of this course:
 - ☐ Your topic must be related to one or more of the *Key Questions* listed in the course syllabus. While your project need not directly answer any of these questions, it must clearly be related to one or more of these questions.
 - ☐ This term project is designed to allow you to become more knowledgeable about a subject that you are interested in. It is recommended that you carefully choose the subject matter that will become the focus of your term project. While your subject must relate to the course content, a great diversity of topics could satisfy the requirements of this project.
 - ☐ Using library and internet research, you will obtain at least SEVEN (7) related sources of scientific information (your “source list”) that are strongly connected to your chosen topic.
 - ☐ You will present your list of sources in annotated form, providing a brief summary of relevant information and ideas found in each source.
2. Identify the key scientific ideas that will be the focus of your project:
 - ☐ Through the development and presentation of a project table, you will identify particular scientific ideas related to your chosen topic that will be incorporated into your creative work. While it is fine to have a particular medium (or even ideas for how to use that medium) in mind, the major focus of the table is to decide what ideas, concepts, and information will inspire your creative work.
3. Design and complete a creative work that incorporates important ideas uncovered in your research:
 - ☐ This assignment is intended to compliment your major studies, so any media that you might employ for other classes is fair game: digital art, websites, flash, animation, jewelry, an advertisement, sculpture, film/video, short stories, poems, critical analysis, graphic design, photography, painting, fashion design, architectural blueprints, prints, ‘zines, interior design, illustrations, or industrial design.
 - ☐ Before committing to hours of implementing your creative ideas, you will make a “sketch” of your planned work to present to your instructor.
 - ☐ While you will need to submit your work to your instructor, it will be returned to you within two weeks of submission.
4. Explain your *Term Project* in written form:
 - ☐ A *Project Summary* provides you with the opportunity to explain how you incorporated scientific information into your term project.

- ☐ You will produce a draft *Summary* that will be revised based on feedback from your instructor. You also have the option of making two revisions: first one in response to feedback from the *Writing & Tutorial Center*, and then another in response to feedback from your instructor.

Summary of assignments and due dates:

| Assignment to be completed | Date Due (at 11:59 pm EST unless otherwise noted) | Points | % of Total |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------|---------------|
| Initial Source List | September 19th, 2018* (before class) | 10 | 6.3% |
| Draft Project Table | October 10th, 2018* (before class) | 10 | 6.3% |
| Project Table | October 21st, 2018 | 20 | 12.5% |
| Term Project Sketch | November 1st, 2018 | 10 | 6.3% |
| Draft Project Summary | November 9th, 2018 | 10 | 6.3% |
| Term Project & Term Project Summary | November 28th, 2018 | 100 | 62.5% |
| TOTAL | | 160 | 100.0% |

* These due dates are inflexible: if you don't bring printed-out versions of these assignments to class on these days, you will receive a zero for this component of your *Coursework* grade (we will be completing project activities during these class meetings that are worth ~4% of your final course grade).

Component Steps for Completing the Project:

Initial Source List:

The first step in completing your project is to identify sources you can use to inform your *Term Project*. Using search resources in the library and on the web, identify and obtain at least seven (7) sources that provide relevant information about your chosen subject. This page may help you find valuable sources: <http://www.christopherxjensen.com/teaching/for-students/#Research-res>. You are required to use at least one (1) book found in the Pratt library in your source list, and primary scientific literature will be valued over secondary or tertiary sources (especially when your source is a website). After you have identified the sources you will use, create a source list that:

- briefly describes the subject matter that will be the focus of your research and makes it clear how this topic is related to one or more of the *Key Questions* that form the basis of this course
- makes a complete citation (see *Citations* below) for each source
- provides for each source a short paragraph summarizing the important information and ideas provided by that source (this converts your *Bibliography* into an *Annotated Bibliography*)

Term Project Table:

To assure that it is entirely clear what ideas you plan to incorporate into your project, you will create a *Project Table* in the following format:

| Scientific idea to be incorporated into your creative work: (stated as a clear sentence that answers a how and/or why question) | How this idea could be incorporated into your creative work: |
|---|---|
| Scientific Idea #1 | Explanation of how scientific idea #1 could be incorporated into your creative work |
| Scientific Idea #2 | Explanation of how scientific idea #2 could be incorporated into your creative work |
| ... and so on | ... and so on |

Please make sure that all elements of your *Project Table* are clearly written and fully explained.

Term Project Sketch:

Chances are that you will spend a fair amount of time executing the creative work that will make up your *Term Project*. To make sure that this time is well spent, you will submit a “sketch” of the work you plan to execute. What constitutes a “sketch” will vary based on the kind of work you plan to do, but all sketches should include:

- a description of what medium or media you plan to use to create your work;
- a clear and specific plan for what you are going to be creating; and
- an explanation of how the work will incorporate the scientific ideas identified in your *Term Project Table*.

Feel free to discuss with your instructor what form your “sketch” should take.

Final Term Project:

The overall goal of the *Term Project* is to produce a creative work that incorporates important ideas and information related to the *Key Questions* of the course. There are many subjects that can successfully serve as the focus of the project, and there are many ways of incorporating science into creative work. Remember that while the work must express scientific concepts, it need not do so on its own: the *Project Summary* can serve to explain subtle or abstract ideas that are present in the creative work. Because the final *Term Project* may take a great variety of creative forms, different students will deliver their *Final Projects* in different ways:

- If your project is purely digital, it can be directly uploaded to the *LMS*. Some movie projects may exceed the upload limit I have set on the *LMS* (100 MB), and should be uploaded to a film-streaming site such as YouTube or Vimeo (please provide the URL video in the “notes” section of the *Final Term Project* submission page on the *LMS*).
- If your project is analog, you should upload a set of at least six (6) portfolio-quality images of your work to the *LMS* as a single PDF file. In addition, you must deliver the project to your instructor. If your project is an installation and cannot be delivered, you must arrange a time for your instructor to visit your project.

Term Project Summary:

All students will submit a *Term Project Summary* that includes an *Annotated Bibliography*. The *Term Project Summary* should:

- provide general scientific background required to understand the project;
- describe and explain the scientific information, ideas, and concepts that were incorporated into the project, using citations to indicate which sources provided particular content;
- discuss how particular creative methods were used to incorporate the information/ideas/concepts into the work; and

- identify the intended audience for the work and explain the impact that the work is designed to have on that audience.

Each *Term Project Summary* will be accompanied by an *Annotated Bibliography* that provides for each source not only a complete citation but also a short paragraph summarizing what information/ideas/concepts this source contributed to your project. See below for exact formatting guidelines.

General Guidelines for Completing the Project:

Length requirements for the written component of this project:

Your *Project Summary* should be at least two (2) and no more than three (3) pages of **single-spaced** text (minimum 1000 words).

Drafting and revision process for the written components of this project:

For the *Project Summary*, you must perform at least one revision of your written work based on feedback that you receive on earlier drafts. The *Summary* will be revised based on feedback from your instructor. You also have the option to receive extra credit for visiting the *Writing & Tutorial Center* (WTC) before handing in your *Draft* to your instructor. Although it is expected that “revised” work will be superior to “draft” work, the term “draft” should not be construed to mean hastily-conceived, incomplete, or poorly-composed. Those students who present the best possible “draft” work will get the most out of the review and revision process.

Visiting the *Writing & Tutorial Center* (WTC):

Visiting the *WTC* is not required but is highly recommended; students who bring a draft version of their *Summary* to the *WTC* will receive extra credit. On the *LMS* you will find the ***WTC Visit Form***. This form must be submitted to your instructor to establish that you have visited the *WTC* as part of your revision process. The *WTC* is located on the first floor of North Hall; you can’t miss its beautiful coral reef tanks. The center is open Monday through Friday for approximately forty-eight hours, so if you plan ahead you will be able to find a time to visit. You can just walk in, but making an appointment assures that you will have a writing tutor waiting for you when you arrive. You can visit the *WTC* website at <http://tinyurl.com/nfnvtww> and make an appointment by calling 718-636-3459 or sending an email to wtc@pratt.edu. Please be aware that the *WTC* does not provide proofreading services: you should bring a draft that you have already carefully reviewed for basic errors in spelling and grammar.

Bibliography & Citations:

1. Your bibliography must contain at least seven sources. Of these sources, at least one must be from the Pratt library. Speak to your instructor if you are not clear on what this means.
2. The source of all material that is not of your own creation must be cited. This includes:
 - ★ All print media (examples: articles, books)
 - ★ All digital media (examples: websites, downloaded books and articles, podcasts)
 - ★ All images (analog or digital) other than those that you have created entirely
2. All sources in your *Bibliography* must be referenced in the text of your paper. Do not include sources that are not cited at least once.
3. In referencing your citations, use the correct number from your numbered bibliography. *For example*: “Methane released by livestock represents a major contribution to greenhouse gas emissions [6].”

4. Please use a standard bibliographical format and use it consistently. Although I am flexible about *how* you organize the information presented in each citation, there are particular pieces of information that *must* be in each citation. For help on citing properly, please see this page: <http://www.christopherxjensen.com/teaching/for-students/#citation>.
5. 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.

Format of the *Project Summary*:

1. Please present your *Project Summary* in type-written, **single-spaced** format. The font should be 12 point, margins should be 1" on all sides.
2. Along with the main *Project Summary*, also provide a numbered *Annotated Bibliography* (does not count towards page minimum or maximum) that: a) lists each of the sources you used to inform your project in a standard citation format (see below); and b) provides a short paragraph summarizing what information/ideas/concepts this source contributed to your project.
3. Reference all ideas that are not your own using your numbered *Annotated Bibliography*. Both superscripts¹ and bracketed [2] citations are acceptable, but use a consistent format.

Submission of *Term Project* work:

Unless otherwise specified, all submission of work should be done via the *Learning Management System (LMS)* in *Adobe PDF* format. Formats other than PDF will not be accepted. Analog creative work (whether it be two- or three-dimensional) must be photodocumented as described above and submitted to your instructor. There is a 10% penalty per day of lateness for all assignments.

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 biological concepts. *Your project should clearly demonstrate what you have learned in this class.* 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 ("evolution is the science of...") and paraphrasing of books, scientific papers, and websites. Careful citation makes you seem more authoritative in whatever you write. For more information on the course plagiarism policy see the syllabus and this site: <http://www.christopherxjensen.com/teaching/for-students/#no-plagiarism>.

Extra credit opportunities:

There are three main opportunities for extra credit on the *Term Project*:

1. Writing a reflection after submitting your *Final Project Table*;
2. Bringing your *Draft Project Summary* to the *Writing & Tutorial Center*;
3. Writing a reflection after submitting your *Draft Project Summary*.

Other extra credit assignments count towards *Coursework* and cannot be applied to the *Term Project*.