**EXAMPLES OF ELABORATIVE SEQUENCING (DRAWN FROM SYLLABI)**

**ELABORATIVE ASSIGNMENTS IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES – FROM PROFESSOR RENEGAR’S “COMMUNICATION STUDIES CAPSTONE”**

**Proposal (5%)**

This assignment calls for a brief description of the project that you have in mind. It should be focused on what artifact or object of analysis you intend to analyze and also explain why you think this would be an interesting project. You should also have some idea of what approach to the analysis that you are going to use. One that isolates a critical problem or poses an interesting question, one that you are able to do, one that is interesting to you, and one that it is on an important, hot, or timely topic. Also include a clear explanation of why this topic is important in the context of communication studies, linking it to either rhetoric or media studies. In this paper you are committing to an object for analysis for the semester. 3-4 pages.

**Descriptive Analysis (5%)**

This is a coherent essay that examines your chosen object for analysis in depth. It should begin with an introduction justifying the text(s) that you have chosen. Be sure to justify the representativeness or importance of the text. This should be a broad opened ended description that lays out the themes, requested or implied action of the text and any other distinguishing characteristics. You will also want to describe the following elements that you deem relevant for your text: organization, role of the creator, tone, (implied) audience, strategy categories (rational argument, narrative, language, credibility, confrontation, and values, needs, symbols, etc.). Be sure to cite from the text to back up each of your claims. Beyond your text of choice, outside research is not necessary for this assignment. 7-8 pages.

**Prospectus/Literature Review (5%)**

This paper will extend your proposal into a fully developed prospectus with a literature review that clearly and thoroughly identifies the theoretical conversation that you will enter and contribute to. You will review the literature on your topic as well as any necessary research on the cultural context that helps explain your text. You should also identify the particular journal in communication studies that you see as a good match for this project. 7-8 pages. This paper will require outside research and should include a works cited page, but that does not count as one of your pages.

**Critical Perspective Paper (10%)**

This paper should do two things. First, you should justify what you believe to be the most appropriate method/theory/approach for explaining/evaluating the particular text you have chosen. This method should emerge, in a sense, from the work itself. In another sense, you should be able to then impose the method on the work to explain how the object of analysis functions. Second, you should provide a detailed description of the method in order to clarify your application and knowledge of it, and then thoroughly review the literature associated with this approach. This paper should begin with an introduction where you suggest some reason for your choice of your method/approach/critical perspective as the most appropriate. You then should describe the method/theory/approach and explain why and how you intend to apply it the work. This paper should end with a clear listing of the units of analysis from your text that will guide the analysis. Be sure to cite your sources and include a bibliography. This should not exceed twelve (12) pages.

**Analysis Paper (10%)**

In this paper you will conduct the analysis. You will begin by listing the units of analysis that you honed in the Critical Perspective paper. These will then be the sub-headings of this analysis paper. For each unit you will provide textual examples (correctly cited) from your object of analysis, explanations of these examples, and theoretical support where necessary. Summarize and preview as you move between sub-points. Each of the units should be about the same length so that the analysis is balanced. Include a bibliography. This analysis should reveal something about the object of your analysis that would not be apparent to casual observers, but that they can now see once you have laid it out and explained it to them. I expect to see your expertise as a critic of media and/or rhetoric present here. This section comprises the “meat” of your final project, and should be in almost finished form so it can just be cut and pasted into your final draft. This paper will be between 12-18 pages and include a works cited page. This will be submitted to me and to some of your peers for feedback.

**Final Paper Draft (10%)**

Your final paper should mirror a journal article. You will draw from the previous papers you have submitted. Your structure may vary somewhat, but I would expect to see headings for the introduction, a description of your object of analysis and any *relevant* context information, a literature review in terms of the object, an explanation of the critical perspective and review of relevant literature, the analysis, and a summarizing section with conclusions and implications of this research for communication scholars, and a works cited section. You will have to decide what material from your previous papers is relevant and then rework it all into a final, cohesive essay.

In keeping with journal articles in our field, you should present your work as arguments you will advance in the essay, not as questions to be answered. (In a sense, your arguments are the answers to unstated questions.) There should be a clear sense in the introduction, and again in the conclusion, of what theoretical conversation you are entering and what you are contributing to it (who do you agree with, who are you extending, who are you answering?).This final draft will be turned in to me, and to a group of your peers for feedback. 20-22 pages.

**Peer Review (5%)**

You will be assigned to read some of your colleagues’ analysis papers and final drafts and provide thoughtful, written feedback. You will be assessed on the quality of your review. This will be discussed more fully in class.

**Final Manuscript (25%)**

This is your final submitted version and should incorporate the revisions suggested in the peer feedback and in my feedback. Any errors in mechanics should have been ironed out long ago, and this version of your essay should be a manuscript ready for submission to a professional conference or scholarly journal.

**ELABORATIVE ASSIGNMENTS IN ART HISTORY – FROM PROFESSOR HAJOVSKY’S “PAINTING A NEW WORLD”**

Three writing assignments will be used to develop your skills in visual analysis and library research. Visual analysis pertains to the verbalization of images, and involves two skills: (1) recognizing the elements that compose an image or object and (2) organizing them into verbal prose. For this reason, you must equip yourself with a visual vocabulary that can express what you see in an efficient and eloquent way, and you might find yourself reworking verbal phrases as you organize the information during the writing process. I will offer ways to analyze images in class, and you are encouraged to use Sylvan Barnet’s *A Short Guide to Writing About Art*, located on reserve in the campus library.

**Paper 1: Iconic Painting - 500 words (about 2 pages) - Due February 5 at the beginning of class**

Visual analysis of a painting chosen from a set of images located in Artstor. There is no research component to this exercise. The paper will be graded by how fully and effectively it communicates the visual aspects of the image. Effective use of descriptive language includes correct grammar, well- structured sentences, and logical connections between sentences. We will practice visual analysis and aspects of effective writing in class.

**Paper 2: San Antonio Museum of Art - 1200-1500 words (4-5 pages) - Due March 7 at the beginning of class**

Visual analysis of a painting met with research that compares the SAMA image with another chosen from library resources and/or from readings in the course pack. This paper must have no less than two relevant peer-reviewed sources. This paper will be peer-reviewed by another student in class on February 26. More guidelines will be given as the date approaches.

**Paper 3: Independent Research - 2000-2500 words (6-8 pages) - Due April 23 at the beginning of class**

An extended research paper either revised from one of the previous papers, or developed from a new research agenda. This paper must analyze at least two paintings and discuss them with a single thesis, which should relate to one of the themes of the course. This paper should include footnotes, bibliography of no less than five relevant peer-reviewed sources, and accompanying illustrations. No more than two of these sources can come from the course reading. This paper will be graded for analytical and critical ability, clarity of argument, correct grammar, and proper use of citations. Writing style as well as correct spelling, grammar, citations, footnotes, etc., will also factor into the grade.

Several books are on Desk Reserve in the Smith Library, including those that are part of the course pack. It is recommended that students begin research with these sources. You can access the list of books through the Smith Library’s website.