Final Project Guidelines[1]

Due: Thursday, April 29, with all components submitted to the dropbox and website by 2 pm.

The **final project** (worth 25%/250 points) will be posted to a section of your website; formatting and content will vary depending on students' different approaches. Overall, it should be original, innovative work that combines your personal, academic, and/or professional interests while showcasing your critical and creative skills and strengths. Your project should demonstrate a depth of learning and engagement with the course topic and within the specific contexts of apocalypse studies and the theme of survival. Projects may take any form and do not need to respond directly to any of the assigned novels; rather, your project should work in dialogue with the readings by exploring a specific mode, genre, or topic of apocalyptic literature.

Your project must:
- Be clearly related to the course topic, and it should at least indirectly build on themes or issues found within the assigned texts and reflect the influence of class discussions. You need not address every single point made in discussions, but part of the purpose of the project is to assess your comprehension and achievement of the course content and any related theories or ideas.
- Be substantial. It should represent a serious investment of time, thought, and effort. Your project should not be incomplete, sloppy, or look like it was undertaken the weekend before it was due but reflect hours of planning, work, and refinement. This course does not require the formal writing assignments and exams that are traditional in college courses of its level; the time spent on developing or studying for these traditional components of a college course should be clearly transferred to work on your project.
- Demonstrate independent research. Whatever project you undertake, you will need to do research. This research might take many different forms and be used for a variety of purposes. Your project should not just be something that you invented out of thin air but rather should reflect how your sustained thinking around your project has drawn on the reliable work of others who have thought about the same things as you.
- Be innovative. Your project should be a genuinely new way of representing, thinking, or engaging with the course topic and the assigned texts (which is one of the reasons why you have to do some research). You'll especially want to avoid picking a project that has already been done, or one likely to be undertaken by another student in the class.

Project Suggestions
Your project might take a lot of different forms. For example, you might write a pandemic journal (fiction or memoir) or a time-travel narrative exploring the before and after of an apocalyptic event, or you could create an archive of objects and documents meant to survive the apocalypse. Other options could include a research paper or nonfiction essay that explores the history,

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[1] Project guidelines, proposal form, and rubric are adapted from an undergraduate course on climate fiction taught by Dr. Crystal Lake and have been revised for this class with her kind permission.

politics, or religious views of apocalypse; a series of video diaries, podcasts, or interviews exploring participants' experiences of Covid-19; an examination of the links between pandemics and socio-cultural views of apocalypse; or even a board game created digitally or with a 3-D printer. The options are wide-open and you should be thinking about and developing your project throughout the semester. You should also think about how you will engage with visual or digital media in your project since you will be posting your to your website.

Project Proposal and Presentation

During the last week on Tues, April 20, we will have a project workshop, in which you will be able to discuss your ideas and progress with me and your peers. You will also need to submit the **project proposal form** (worth 5%/50 points) prior to the start of class (form is included on the course website). During the scheduled exam time, you will provide a **presentation of your project** (worth 10%/100 points) that includes some visual element (like a PowerPoint and/or your website where the project is uploaded). Presentations will be through Zoom and should be approximately 5-10 minutes in length.

Final Project Holistic Rubric—250 pts (25%)

A (100% = 250 points)	The project is excellent and innovative. It demonstrates a high-degree of work and professionalism that suggest the project was developed and refined over many weeks leading up to the deadline for its submission. The project is clearly related to the assigned texts and course topics and it offers a compelling, persuasive response to the questions with which the class was engaged throughout the semester. It demonstrates reliable and relevant research, clear organization, well-written textual information, a variety of critical and creative components, and visual quality/appeal.
B (80% = 200 points)	The project is strong and demonstrates a professionalism that suggests the project was developed and refined over several weeks leading up to the deadline for its submission. The project is clearly related to the assigned texts and course topics, and it offers a thoughtful response to the questions with which the class was engaged throughout the semester. It demonstrates reliable and relevant research; however, there might be some minor errors or deficiency in one or more of the following: organization; textual information; visual quality/appeal.
C (70% = 175 points)	The project is completed but would benefit from more work, development, and refinement. The project may have been too hastily undertaken too close to the deadline. The project is clearly related to the assigned texts and course topics, but its response to the questions with which the class was engaged throughout the semester is incomplete or inconsistent. The project demonstrates some research, but this research may not be as reliable and relevant as that demonstrated by B projects.
D (60% = 150 points)	The project appears incomplete, sloppy, and/or not much thought was given to providing a cohesive design. The project would clearly benefit from more work, development, and refinement and/or the project's relationship to the course topic and assigned texts is unclear or haphazard, suggesting lack of engagement or comprehension of the work assigned in the class. The project would also benefit from more research and/or does not include any research.
F (50% = 100 points)	Incomplete projects, projects that fall far short of professional standards, projects that lack any research, visual or written components and/or academic integrity.

Presentation Rubric (10%=100 points); **final grade is the average of total criteria points:**

Criteria	Sophisticated (100 pts)	Competent (80 pts)	Needs Improvement (60 pts)
Style	Level of presentation is appropriate for the audience. Presentation is a planned conversation, paced for audience understanding. It is not a reading of a paper. Speaker is clearly comfortable in front of the group and can be heard by all.	Level of presentation is generally appropriate. Pacing is sometimes too fast or slow. The presenter seems uncomfortable at times, and the audience occasionally has trouble hearing him/her.	Aspects of presentation are too elementary **or** too dense for audience. Presenter appears uncomfortable and can be heard only if listener is very attentive. Much of the information is read or provided in a monotone.
Organization	Presentation is clear, logical, and organized. Listener can follow line of reasoning.	Presentation is generally clear and well organized. A few minor points may be confusing.	Listener can follow presentation only with effort. Some points are not clear. Organization seems haphazard.
Visuals	Visuals enhance presentation and are prepared in a professional manner to highlight main points; information is organized to maximize understanding.	Visuals contribute to quality of the presentation. Includes relevant information. Some material is not supported by visual aids. Several typos or writing errors are present.	Visuals are poorly prepared or inappropriate, with multiple typos and writing errors. Too much information is included. Unnecessary material is highlighted. Listeners may be confused.

Total Points: _____/300 ÷ 3 = Average: _____/100   Letter Grade: _____