

## HIST/ANTH 442 African Diaspora

### Guidelines for Interdisciplinary Research Paper

#### Goal:

You want to conduct library research that will yield interdisciplinary perspectives on an African Diaspora theme, and then clearly articulate those perspectives in a well-executed paper. **The paper should put forward an argument about the theme and its treatment in the literature, and draw clear conclusions from the analytic discussion.**

Engage the following questions as you construct your argument:

- What arguments do scholars in different disciplines make regarding your theme? How do the authors you have read know what they know? What kind of sources and concepts/theories/frameworks do they use to make the arguments? Do any of the authors employ interdisciplinary research methods themselves?
- What are the relative strengths and weaknesses of the approach and argument of each scholar?
- How do the books/articles compare and/or connect in terms of their evidentiary base or methodology? Would one author's book/article be enhanced by using a kind of source or conceptual approach featured in another?
- How does taking an interdisciplinary approach broaden one's understanding of the theme? Can you adapt knowledge learned in one area to explore new issues?
- Which of the debates that we have read about or talked about in class are relevant to the literature on this theme? Given all that you have read over the semester for the course, are there important "big lessons" learned or "open questions" not answered in the works read for this paper?

Attach to the final version a reflection essay (3 to 5 paragraphs) where you

- discuss any challenges you faced in researching this interdisciplinary topic, and how you overcame them
- highlight anything surprising or remarkable that turned up during the process
- draw on your own life experiences to make connections to what you have researched and to illuminate concepts, theories, and/or frameworks you have engaged with in this assignment.

#### Requirements:

1. 8 - 10 page paper (between 2400 and 3000 words) of double-spaced text, 10 or 12 font, 1 inch margins (excluding title page, notes and bibliography, and reflection essay). Submit the final paper through the Turnitin link on *CI Learn*/Blackboard; through the Assignment Template link in *folioCI* (access through MyCI); AND in hardcopy on the last day of class.
2. Use at least five scholarly peer-reviewed sources published in academic journals or by academic presses [NOT websites; electronic academic journals are okay] that represent at least three academic disciplines (with at least one in the social sciences).
3. Use a citation apparatus (footnotes, endotes, or MLA style), provide page numbers for any direct quotations (use *single-space block indents* for quotes longer than 5 lines), and provide a separate Bibliography/Works Cited page.

Questions for thinking in interdisciplinary terms:

1. How is the theme reflected in media (art, literature, film, television)?
2. How do social scientists from different disciplines approach the topic?
3. Does the theme have scientific or environmental or economic implications?
4. Does the theme have psychological or ethical implications?
5. What kind of questions have/might the following asked/ask about the topic?

Activists	Anthropologists	Artists
Development professionals	Entrepreneurs	Economists
Educators	Environmentalists	Historians
Health professionals	Journalists	Linguists
Managers	Media professionals	Musicians
Policy makers	Political scientists	Psychologists
Scientists	Sociologists	Therapists
Creative writers (novelists, playwrights, poets, screenwriters) Etc.		

Strategies for finding scholarly works on your topic:

1. Start early as you may need to request hard copy sources through different libraries in Santa Barbara. If you get a jump on research, you can request books through Interlibrary Loan from the Broome library at CI (which would entail travelling to retrieve and return the materials). You can likely use books in the Luria Library collection on site, but would not have circulation privileges.
2. Use Quicksilver through the Broome website (or the search function on the SBCC Luria Library website) to locate books on your topic. Make note of the key words and subject terms in the record of books that look interesting. You can use these key words in subsequent searches for books and articles.
3. Use the “Resources by Subject or Major” and “Databases by Subject” links on the CI library webpage to get at sources in different disciplines.
4. Brainstorm with a librarian!

**KEEP IN MIND:** A strong paper will be organized around a thesis statement or a question that introduces and encompasses your conclusions about this interdisciplinary collection of books/articles on your theme.

**HIST 442 THE AFRICAN DIASPORA  
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PAPER EVALUATION**

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>POSSIBLE</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
1	<p>Organization and Clarity: Introduction (including a thesis statement introducing the theme and YOUR argument), Body/Discussion, Conclusions. Identification of disciplines [at least 3; at least 1 social science]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GE 4.2 Written Communication rubric: Purpose, Clarity</li> <li>• GE 7.2 Social Science rubric: Knowledge</li> </ul>	10	
2	<p>Identification of authors [at least 5], their evidence, and their main arguments/theses. Discussion of relative strengths and weaknesses of scholarship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GE 4.2 Written Communication rubric: <b>Content</b>, Audience, Clarity</li> <li>• GE 7.2 Social Science rubric: Methods</li> </ul>	20	
4	<p>Overall development of YOUR argument and conclusions through integrated critical analysis [Give your paper an appropriate TITLE: if you cannot, you do not have an argument. If this paper were a newspaper article, what's the headline?]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GE 1.1.c Interdisciplinary rubric: Synthesis, Transfer</li> <li>• GE 4.2 Written Communication rubric: <b>Content</b>, Audience, Clarity</li> <li>• GE 7.2 Social Science rubric: Theories/Perspectives</li> </ul>	20	
5	<p>Relevance of theme and books/articles to course readings &amp; lectures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GE 1.1.c Interdisciplinary rubric: Synthesis, Transfer</li> <li>• GE 7.2 Social Science rubric: Knowledge, Methods, Theories/Perspectives</li> </ul>	15	
7	<p>Interdisciplinary perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GE 1.1.c Interdisciplinary rubric: Synthesis, Transfer</li> </ul>	20	
8	<p>Clear, succinct writing; proper grammar Meets requirements: at least 5 peer-reviewed sources; 8-10 double-spaced pages; citation apparatus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GE 4.2 Written Communication rubric: Clarity</li> </ul>	15	
	<b>TOTAL</b>		